

**Learning Commons
officially opens in
Library / 6**



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mind-numbing fun / 18-19**



LAMBDA

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Are you being watched?



Is big brother watching? One of Laurentian Security's five pan-tilt cameras overlooks campus from atop the R.D. Parker Building. Read on to find out where the line is drawn between privacy and security on campus.

Ben Rowe / LAMBDA

BY DEBBIE SAUVE
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

The fine line between privacy and security can be a hard one to definitively distinguish. On one hand, a person's fundamental right to privacy should be upheld. On the other hand, if giving up certain privacy rights can lead to enhanced security, does the end justify the means?

This is an ongoing battle for security officers at Laurentian University. Being a private institution, they are not guided by police warrant directives, and therefore must make these tough decisions for students, staff and visitors to campus on their own.

At a recent SGA Board meeting, students inquired whether or not cameras were being used in classrooms at LU, wondering where their right to privacy ended once they entered university grounds.

We have all seen the signs as you enter either of the two main entrances to campus, indicating the use of exterior video surveillance throughout the university. However, you will also notice that there are no signs of this nature inside campus buildings. This is because, to date, there are no fixed cameras in classrooms or the interior of campus buildings that security is aware of.

Covert Cameras

The important word here is fixed. Covert or concealed cameras have been used on occasion, to help security catch suspects in the act.

"We have had some thefts in the past with ceiling projectors as well as computers and so forth," said Chief of Security Larry Denomme. "If we have a suspect we are trying to apprehend, security on occasion may use covert cameras."

Continued on Page 4

Education Review comes to LU

BY SHAILAGH KEANEY
VP STUDENT ISSUES

Orientation to the Panel
The Post - Secondary Education Review was announced in Ontario's 2004 provincial budget as a response to public interest in an independent review panel of Post Secondary Education (PSE).

The outcome was the Rae Review, a panel headed up by Ontario's former Premier Bob Rae. While the selection of panel members came as nothing short of a surprise, students have still supported the formation of an independent body that

can evaluate PSE policy and funding in Ontario. Indeed, this panel could ideally be the forum where students can have their voices heard.

Currently, the Rae Review is travelling to communities across Ontario, hosting Round-Table discussions and Town Hall meetings as forums for stakeholders and community members to discuss issues relating to PSE. Students, staff, faculty and various other community members are coming out in droves to ensure that Bob Rae hears the voices of the public.

Continued on Page 7

Lady Vees go to finals

BY KRIS HARRIS
SPORTS EDITOR

For the first time in its five-year history, the Lady Vees women's soccer team has made it to the final four and will play for a medal.

The team is still in the hunt in the OUA playoffs after coming up with back-to-back road playoff wins this weekend. The victories, against Brock and York, were also the first playoff wins in Lady Vees history, and have advanced the team through to the OUA semi-finals.

After wrapping up the regular-season up with a 2-1 loss to Nipissing University, the women finished in third place in the North division forcing them to travel south for a tough match against the Brock Badgers on Oct. 29.

A gutsy two-goal performance by injured striker Kristy MacKenzie helped to propel the Lady Vees to a 3-1 win over Brock. MacKenzie opened the scoring in the twenty-third minute on a well-placed

shot after the ball bounced right to her during a scrum in front of the Badgers net. The Badgers answered that goal with one of their own in the 38th minute of the half when a free kick was crossed from just outside the penalty area and put behind Laurentian's goalie Katie McNamara.

The score remained deadlocked for only five minutes, when Lady Vees' midfielder Claire Miller put Laurentian ahead for good in the 43rd minute. In the second half, MacKenzie added her second marker of the match with a great shot that stayed just out of the reach of the Brock goaltender, sealing the win for the blue and gold.

"The girls played a tremendous game this afternoon," said head coach Rob Gallo. "We were physically stronger than them. This was probably the best offensive game we have played all season long."

MacKenzie was named the player of that game by the coach.

Continued on Page 12

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Lambda circulates 2,200 copies throughout the city of Sudbury and the Laurentian University Campus.

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Lambda Publications is the bi-weekly student newspaper of Laurentian University. Lambda is funded through a direct student levy by members of the Students' General Association, yet remains autonomous from all university organizations, both student and administrative.

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VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Lambda is entirely written for and by the students of Laurentian University. We depend largely on volunteer writers, so write to us!

WRITE TO US

Include your full name and student number. Please keep articles to a maximum of 700 words. Lambda reserves the right to edit for content considered sexist, racist, homophobic, heterosexist or for length. Letters of harrasing or slandersous manner will be dealt with by the proper authorities.

E-MAIL SUBMISSIONS

Please e-mail submissions to lambda@laurentian.ca. Ensure the attached file is saved as TEXT or Word, because we cannot transfer other files to Mac format. To be considered for print, all submissions must have your name and student number

EDITOR'S CORNER

Why hibernate?



DEBBIE SAUVE

We all know that it is coming - but no one wants to admit it. You can feel it in the air and you can see it in the way your breath is beginning to fog in the cold. That's right, winter is surely on its way.

And as the last leaves fall and the days not so gradually get shorter, now is the time to find a hobby to help

pass those winter months.

For me, I always find that the best way to beat the winter blues is to dare to go outside and to brave the elements (so to speak). I mean, you can't get cabin fever if you are still enjoying the outdoors.

However, like anything else, in order to survive, you need to have a winter survival plan - a toolbox of activities at your disposal when you are sick of watching Seinfeld and Law & Order reruns.

Some people would whine that it is just too damn cold in Sudbury, but being the true northerner that I am, I say cold means snow and ice, and snow and ice mean winter sports and leisure. I often find that there is actually way more to do in Sudbury in winter than there is in the summer.

Whether it is skiing,

skating or snowmobiling, Lambda has you covered. Check out our next issue (coming out on Nov. 18) for our special leisure guide to winter in Sudbury. Also, if you know of any great ways to pass the time during hibernation season, get a hold of me at lambda@laurentian.ca to include your article.

For those of you looking for a way to infuse a little creative humour into your lives right now, we are beginning to accept submissions for Lambda's first ever, Funniest Photo Contest. It's simple - make our staff laugh and win some prizes.

We will be giving away gift certificates to the Laurentian Bookstore and Microcomputer Centre for the top three photos, which will be published in the Dec. 2 edition of the paper. So get out your camera phones,

digital cameras or archaic 35mm, and take some shots. They can be natural or staged. Anything goes (well, except obviously nudity and other things of a "too" offensive nature).

See our ad on the next page for details.

And as always, for you writers out there, Lambda continues to seek the help of volunteers like you!

I would also like to take this moment to formally welcome Neil Zacharjewicz to the Lambda Publications team. Neil was recently hired as Assistant Editor-in-Chief. We are glad to have you onboard!

Sincerely,

Debbie Sauve
Editor-in-Chief
Lambda Publications
(705) 673-6548
lambda@laurentian.ca

Letter to the Editor

*To publish or
not to publish...
Maxim is the question?*

To the Editor,

Lambda's claim to be "serving the Laurentian University Community" should have precluded ads such as the one from Coors Light gracing the back page of the October 21 issue. If there are any doubts about the point of the Maxim Girl Search, one need only check the Coors website, as the advertisement invites its readers to do. The ad copy, with its rather limp (a deliberately chosen adjective) attempt at wit, asks the reader to "be the judge." I only wish that the editors of Lambda had done so.

Besides, the Maxim Girl competition is so yesterday. The publisher of Maxim, Felix Dennis, has seen the light, and thrown over his magazine to take up a career as a poet, touring Britain and North America to promote his new book, and devoting his energies to rescuing the sonnet and the villanelle. If corporate interests are setting the extracurricular agenda on campus, I hope I can look forward to full-page ads for a Maxim-Coors Light Poetry contest.

Professor Susan Paterson Glover
Department of English
Laurentian University

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

*If you would like to send a letter to the Editor,
e-mail us at lambda@laurentian.ca or drop it off
at our office located in Room SCE 301
(Student Centre)*

Volunteer News Reporters Needed

Step into the write direction. Whether you wrote for your high school yearbook, were a reporter for a community paper, or always wished you had, Lambda welcomes anyone who is interested in contributing to their student paper.

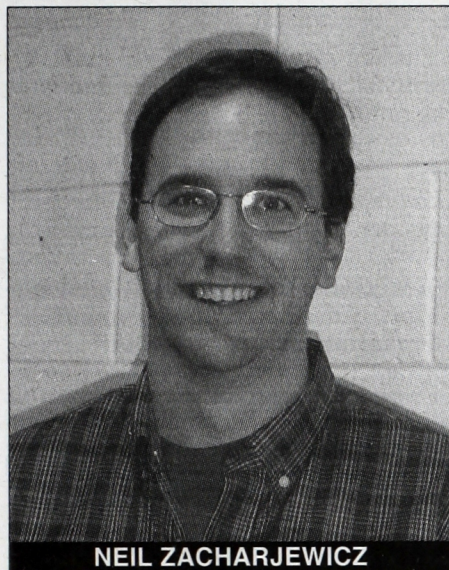
No experience, no problem. We have tons of resources to help beginner writers, with tips on style and format to guide you along. Getting started is the hardest part. But, once you see your name in print, you will be well on your way. Accompanying photos are also welcome and encouraged.

Please contact the editor at lambda@laurentian.ca with your story ideas, including a brief description of your idea, the direction you wish to take the story, what sources you plan to use, and your name and student number. If the idea is accepted, the editor will contact you with an approximate desired length, your deadline and what issue your story will be published in.

Spread the word!

EDITOR'S CORNER

School's no longer out



NEIL ZACHARJEWICZ

doesn't tell you much. Right now, I can hear all the CSI fans out there humming to themselves, "Who Are You?" Okay, maybe not.

My full name is Neil Zacharjewicz. I first got my taste of the news bug 10, count 'em, 10 years ago as first-year student in the Journalism program at Cambrian College. After two years of post-secondary education, I came to realize that I wasn't just signing up for a job. I was making a lifestyle choice. You don't just work in the news business... you live it.

Upon graduating from Cambrian, I spent the next year bouncing from small town journalism job to small town journalism job, and even squeezed in an advertising job with some of the Sudbury radio stations working on commission. There I learned that advertising is not my cup of tea. Upon leaving my job, I actually owed the company money, but that's another story for another day.

My career as a newshound really took off when I accepted a job with The Recorder, a newspaper on Manitoulin Island, based out of Gore Bay. I jumped in with both feet and spent close to three-and-a-half years there. Now I was fairly young for a news reporter at that time, having

come straight out college after having come straight out of high school, so it took me a while to really convince people that I could be trusted with "adult things." Eventually, they came around. Then, my reality changed.

I was sold. Okay, maybe that is a bit of an over-exaggeration. My paper was sold, but I pretty well went with the paper. To make matters even scarier, the paper was sold to our competitor. That can be pretty terrifying at first, but once I got over it, I came to realize it was the best thing to happen to my career.

I was transferred to the competitor's paper, the Manitoulin Expositor, where I really came into my own as a writer. I spent my next three-and-a-half years there when suddenly it hit me... the glass wall.

If any of you reading this came back to school from the workforce, you likely have a good idea of what I am talking about. The glass wall is that point at which you realize you can't go any farther because you are lacking something. In my case, it was a degree. So here I am, attending Laurentian to secure my Communications degree.

It has taken some adjusting. Going from writing news to writing essays is a change, but I'm adapting.

Dealing with the age gap is... interesting (I'm a little over a year shy of the big 3-0!).

I was talking to my buddy a couple of months ago about music, and we were both freaking out about the fact that Motley Crue's 'Kickstart My Heart' was considered a classic rock tune. Then, a week later I heard the song '1985' by Bowling For Soup for the first time, and sure enough it includes the line, 'When did Motley Crue become classic rock.' So I'm sharing this story with some classmates when one of them looks at me and says, 'I was two-years-old in 1985.' Man, I felt old. I felt even older when I found out the Motley Crue reunion tour was on hold until after guitarist Mick Mars recovers from hip replacement surgery.

But despite the age thing, coming back to school was a great decision. I don't regret it in the least, and would advise it to anyone who hits that glass wall.

So that's me in a nutshell. If you happen to bump into me at some point, feel free to introduce yourself. I'm a pretty friendly guy. But if you decide to strike up a conversation with me, and you happen to be younger than... oh, let's say 25, then please avoid the topic of music. I feel old enough as it is.

Can you beat this?



LAMBDA FUNNIEST PHOTO CONTEST

Submission Guidelines:

Submit photo to Lambda by e-mail at lambda@laurentian.ca in JPEG or TIFF format.

If you have a hard copy photo that you would like to submit, drop it off in an envelope marked "Lambda Photo Contest" in the SGA office or just slide it under our door at Lambda.

What we are looking for:

We are looking for photos that tell a

funny story, or just capture an unforgettable moment on film. Be creative! We are leaving this category open to the depths of your imaginations. Oh, one more thing, keep it clean! We can't publish anything too racy (if you know what I mean).

Deadline:

All photos must be received by Lambda by November 19, 2004 for judging.

Prizes:

1st place: \$100 gift certificate to Laurentian Bookstore.

2nd place: \$50 gift certificate to Laurentian Bookstore.

3rd place: \$25 gift certificate to Laurentian Bookstore.

Bring on the funny...

CAMPUS NEWS

Privacy vs. Security



Debbie Sauve / LAMBDA

Laurentian Security Officer Dave Lapierre, monitors a campus parking lot using one of their 5 exterior pan-tilt cameras.

Laurentian Security set to develop written policy regarding use of on campus cameras

Continued from Page 1

Having said this, he confirmed that cameras are not placed in occupied classrooms.

"In order to put a camera in a classroom during class hours, we would require the permission of both students and the professor alike," Denomme said. "We choose rather to put them there at three in the morning, for example, because thefts generally occur between the time when people leave class for the day and when they return in the morning."

Further to this, Denomme stressed that cameras are never used in change rooms, locker-rooms, or washrooms, where people have an expectation of privacy.

"We believe that students, professors and staff rights are of the utmost importance and we would not want to do anything to compromise that," he said.

Over the last 12 years, since Denomme has been here, he said covert cameras have only been used between three and five times. When asked if hidden video surveillance had been utilized this year in light of the theft increases on campus, he said "that is something that we do not want to confirm because it is part of an ongoing investigation."

Exterior Cameras

More noticeable is the use of exterior cameras on campus. These were installed in 1995, with funding provided in part by the provincial Women's Safety Grant, the community, and various other donors.

As mentioned earlier, these cameras are identified as you enter Laurentian University. In total, there are five Pan-tilt cameras (which can rotate 365 degrees), and seven fixed cameras in various locations throughout campus.

Some of the more recognizable locations include on the roofs of many university buildings and the passage between the Great Hall and the R.D. Parker building.

"We are not trying to hide these cameras," Denomme said. "They are there for people's safety, so that if someone gets assaulted, for example, we have it on tape. It is to protect people going in and out of the buildings on campus."

The 12 exterior cameras record footage 24 hours a day, which is then archived for about 30 days for reference if a crime is reported. Although there is no one there to observe the footage as it is being recorded, Security Officer Dave Lapierre says that is dramatically helps increase security's presence of only 12 full-time staff on campus.

"On a regular day or night shift of 12 hours, there are only two officers present during that working period," Lapierre said. "With the cameras, we can cover more ground quickly, and they, themselves, act as a crime deterrent."

The outside cameras can also reach most of the trail systems on campus. In fact, the trees around the paths were cut back when the surveillance system was installed so that better visual access could be achieved from more angles and from farther away.

Future Written Policy

Nonetheless, in order to distinguish clear boundaries for the use of both indoor and outdoor cameras, it is already on the agenda for the next security meeting to further develop a written policy, and hopefully strike a committee to focus on the issue.

As of right now, camera use is directed by the fact that security and the university have an understanding to respect people's right to privacy.

Regardless, Denomme continues to feel that "we will not see internal cameras for a long time."

If you have any questions regarding this issue or other security concerns, contact Laurentian Security at 673-6562 or Chief of Security Larry Denomme directly at 675-4882.

"We will not see internal cameras for a long time."

- Larry Denomme

Moving beyond sex and gender binaries

Mr. Dan Irving, a Ph.D. student in political science at York University and a trans activist, will be on the Laurentian campus on today, to speak on the theme of "moving beyond sex and gender binaries."

At 1 pm, Irving will present in the Lower Fraser Auditorium an introductory talk entitled "The Existence and Marginalization of Transgender, Transsexual, and Intersexed People."

He will also present a workshop on "Trans Organizing: The Dilemmas of Building Coalitions with Feminists, Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual Organizations, and Labour." This activity will take place at 10 am, in room C102 of Laurentian's Classroom Building.

Some of Irving's other recent papers and presentations include: "Confessions of an Interrogation: Inspiring Trans Feminist Agendas," "Performance Anxiety: A Marxist Critique of Post-Modern Theorizing of Trans People," and "A Critique of Post-Modern Theorizing of Trans Identities."

The free workshop and talk are sponsored by Laurentian University's Department of Sociology, Thorneloe University's Women's Studies Program, and Pride@LU.

For more information, please contact Dr. Gary Kinsman, Sociology professor at Laurentian University, at (705) 675-1151, ext. 4221 or gkinsman@laurentian.ca.

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CAMPUS NEWS

CBC host talks to "young leaders"

BEN ROWE
LAMBDA CONTRIBUTOR

Well-known Canadian news personality visited Laurentian on Oct. 21 and raised some thought-provoking questions about the role of the media in contemporary society.

Lisa Taylor is the Canadian Broadcasting Company's (CBC) legal affairs specialist and is a

past and present host of various shows, including "The Docket" on Newsworld and "Sweet Justice" on Radio One.

Taylor visited the Alphonse-Raymond Pavilion at Laurentian University as the guest speaker for the second annual Young Leader's Luncheon.

The Young Leaders are a branch of the Greater

Sudbury Youth Cabinet, an effort by city council to reach out to adolescents in the Sudbury community. The luncheon brought together a select group who were determined to be "young leaders" to hear Taylor speak.

Rather than a dry discourse, however, Taylor engaged the audience by posing a series of questions she wanted the tables to discuss.

The series of questions were designed to provoke thought among the luncheon guests. The subject matter was intended to stimulate debate among the tables in order to reach some solutions to the matter of public office and the press coverage thereof.

One of the questions Taylor posed to the audience concerning press coverage of public officials was how much should be private?

Citing the Bill Clinton debacle, in which the former U.S. president denied having an extramarital affair with one of his office clerks only to later confess to it, Taylor wondered what impact the press coverage had on Clinton, as well as the issue of what, if any, right the press had to delve into such private details.

"Is it that the only aspects of a politician's life that should be out there, that should be fair game, are those aspects that are relevant to the positions they hold or the office they are seeking?"

A counterpoint raised by Taylor to her own argument was if Clinton was clearly lying when he said "I did not have sex with that woman," then what else could he be lying about?

"Do we want to know? Do we need to know about every sordid detail about a candidate's past indiscretions or mistakes?" Taylor asked the audience.

"(Does this information) help inform you to make wise choices in who you vote for?" she asked, calling the media coverage of public officials often "salacious."

This subject matter gave rise to the second question posed by Taylor: Should we know all the events of a public official's life? When is it acceptable to dig up often irrelevant details of a person's life in the interest of public attention?

Not to say Taylor was vehement in her defense of elected officials and those running for public office, rather, she made a point of directing some of the arrows towards herself and her contemporaries in the media.



LISA TAYLOR

"I have colleagues back in my office that disagree with me, say that I am unnecessarily complicating things by perhaps throwing a few arrows in our direction," she said.

"But I think we deserve it, I think sometimes we just delve into things that may not be necessary.

"But, at the same time, we, the media, are what we are, and I think the public has often attacked this from the wrong angle.

"We look and say, 'How are we going to change the media? How are we going to constrain the media (or) limit the media? Do we need press watchdogs? Do we need this? Do we need that?' Well, let's flip that - let's come up with a more media literate society."

This led to Taylor's third question to the audience: Should we know the background and the biases that may be affecting how the journalists themselves cover news? It's a legitimate point, and one that Taylor did not shy away from.

"I don't think that the way mainstream media has evolved is the greatest way for the best information to come forward," she pointed out.

Taylor discussed how the pressures of deadlines and the competition for advertising dollars affect how the media covers the news.

"We provided context and analysis and slept on it and thought a little bit about it," she said. "But all these people that criticize the media and our rush to judgment and our rush to publish - ask them if they can wait a week to read the

story that's breaking today?"

Probably not.

And, while Taylor said the press is quick to point out that they are unlike public officials in many ways, the fact is the media has a duty to be objective and free from bias when reporting news, and to avoid manufacturing it.

"What should we know about the journalists?" she asked.

"Normally, journalists would say, 'now, hold on a minute, we don't seek public office, and we're not managing public funds, and we're not paid for by the public purse, so we don't deserve the same degree of scrutiny.'

"I think that if my own personal beliefs, biases or experiences are shaping my journalism, then I don't think I'm a good journalist."

However, Taylor said she believes most journalists are capable of putting aside their own opinion and bias when reporting.

"I'd like to think most of us are sufficiently ethical to put that (bias) aside."

Taylor's appearance at Laurentian was spurred by the Canadian Unity Council (CUC), a non-profit organization funded by contributions from the private sector (corporations included), individuals, foundations and government grants.

The CUC, in turn, is a unit of the Centre for Research and Information on Canada (CRIC), which, according to their Web site, "keeps volunteers abreast of Canadians' thinking by constantly tracking and analyzing public information about the federation."

CAMPUS AND COMMUNITY CALENDAR

TODAY

Thursday November 4, 2004

- Sudbury Theatre Centre: Hockey Mom, Hockey Dad (Pay what you can at 2 pm, call the STC at 674-8381 for more information)

Friday November 5, 2004

- Grocery and Mall Bus today from 12 pm to 8 pm
- Men's and Women's Basketball at 6 pm (Carelton vs. Laurentian - Ottawa)
- Men's and Women's Swimming at 4:30 pm (Laurentian vs. York, Ryerson, WLU)

Saturday November 6, 2004

- 2004 Fall Convocation
- Men's and Women's Basketball at 6 pm (Ottawa vs. Laurentian - Ottawa)
- Men's and Women's Swimming at 9:30 am (Laurentian vs. York, Ryerson, WLU)
- Men's and Women's Soccer at TBA (OUA Semi Final)
- Grad Portraits by Studio 318 (Room FA 181, no appointment necessary)

Sunday November 7, 2004

- Men's and Women's Soccer at 1 pm (OUA Bronze Medal)
- Men's and Women's Soccer at 3 pm (OUA Championship)

Monday November 8, 2004

- Sign-up for Annual Curling Bonspiel at the SGA/AGE office

Wednesday November 10, 2004

- Win tickets to the Coors Light Maxim Model Search in the Pub Tonight

Thursday November 11, 2004

- Men's and Women's Soccer at TBA (CIS Championship - Montreal)

Friday November 12, 2004

- Open Mic Night at the Pub
- Grocery and Mall Bus today from 12 pm to 8 pm
- Men's and Women's Basketball at 6 pm (Guelph vs. Laurentian - Guelph)
- Men's and Women's Soccer at TBA (CIS Championship - Montreal)

Saturday November 13, 2004

- Men's and Women's Basketball at 2 pm (Brock vs. Laurentian - St. Catharines)
- Men's and Women's Soccer at TBA (CIS Championship - Montreal)
- Women's Cross Country at TBA (CIS Championships - Guelph)

Sunday November 14, 2004

- Men's and Women's Soccer at TBA (CIS Championship - Montreal)

Monday November 15, 2004

- Sign-up for Annual Curling Bonspiel at the SGA/AGE office

Wednesday November 17, 2004

- SGA/AGE Board Meeting at 5 pm (Room L239)

Thursday November 18, 2004

- Corona Olympics in the Pub
- PICK UP NEXT EDITION OF LAMBDA TODAY!

CAMPUS NEWS

'One-stop' learning centre now open

BY NEIL ZACHARJEWICZ
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Anyone who spent a lot of time in the J.N. Desmarais Library last year was likely shocked to find quite a change in the facility at the beginning of the new school year.

While the new Learning Commons was not officially opened until Oct. 20, the alterations to the library have been visible since the beginning of the fall term. More importantly, the Learning Commons has propelled Laurentian University to the forefront of educational library services in the province.

"I think we are pretty close to being cutting edge for Learning Commons across the province," suggested Ashley Thomson, chair of the Department of Instruction and Information Services. "That is my hope; that we become a benchmark for university libraries."

The concept of a Learning Commons is fairly new on the university scene, with only a handful of Canadian universities having bought into the idea. The Learning Commons concept is based on the idea that services which enhance student learning should be centralized in one area. Essentially, the Learning Commons is a "one-stop shopping" centre for student learning.

Thomson first came up with the idea of a Learning Commons for Laurentian following a visit to Dalhousie University last year to deliver a speech. It was there that Thomson got his first look at a Learning Commons - and he was inspired.

"I came back here sort of pumped about the idea," he admitted. While it took some time to get the project rolling, Thomson wrote up a report on the emergence of Learning Commons in Canadian universities, and suggested it was something Laurentian should consider.

Then, an amazing thing happened within the university.

"Nobody objected, which is kind of astonishing (in a university setting)," Thomson laughed.

There were several reasons the Learning Commons seemed to be the ideal development for Laurentian. The first factor was the amount of duplication between print and electronic journals. Collapsing the library's journal selection, to avoid duplication, only seemed to make sense.

Thomson pointed out that it is much easier to print off an online journal than it is to photocopy from a book, so copies of the texts of all of the journals that were also available in an electronic format were moved into storage, to create more room in the library.

"The second factor (behind the move to the Learning Commons) was the changing university environment," Thomson indicated. He said that, with the advent of the common desktop on the university computers, it only made sense to have all of the computer assistance people in the same area. With 11 more computers on the way, the Learning Commons will soon be the largest computer lab on campus, Thomson noted.

Still, one of the major reasons for the strong show of support for the Learning Commons project was that it fit well with the University's Strategic Plan. In the strategic plan, priority has



Neil Zacharjewicz / LAMBDA

Learning Strategist Suzanne Zorbas offers assistance to Nathanael Ladouceur in the Learning Commons.

been given to ensuring that, ideally, all graduates should be computer literate, writing literate, and information literate. To ensure this was possible, it only made sense to have all of the support services in the same area.

"In one way, it is the initiative that will potentially benefit the most number of students," Thomson stated. He also noted that the project was felt to be attractive to recruiting and retaining students at Laurentian University.

The project cost the university approximately \$475,000, particularly since much of the facility had to be renovated and rejuvenated. Now, the computers have all been centralized in an effort to turn the third floor into more of a quiet area, Thomson explained.

The Learning Commons is now home to the library staff, Computer Services, Special Needs, the Writing Assistance Program, the Group Peer Tutoring Program and more. There is an area set aside for eLearning, as well as for the Assistive Technology lab.

Another by-product of the move to the Learning Commons was the creation of more jobs, which has allowed the library to stay open until 10 pm. As well, the librarian's office is set up to interact with the students better.

Thomson admitted one of the major tests for the facility will be the traffic flow, but he indicated he has already received word from several of the departments within the Learning Commons that they are seeing an increase in activity.

"I suppose you would have to say the response is pretty good," he said.

"This facility is a direct result of our strategic planning. Our goal is to be the most student-focused university in Canada. In the Learning Commons, students can meet all their learning needs, with easy access to specialized employees providing fundamental skills in writing, information and computer literacy. The Learning Commons will enhance teaching and learning at Laurentian, and ensure the academic success of our students," noted Laurentian University President Dr. Judith Woodsworth.

Associate Vice-President of Student Affairs Denis Mayer also voiced his support for the project.

"The Learning Commons will enable the University to remain at the forefront of technology-assisted teaching and online learning. It will also support the integration of appropriate learning technologies in the teaching and learning process, he said.



Big craving. Small budget.

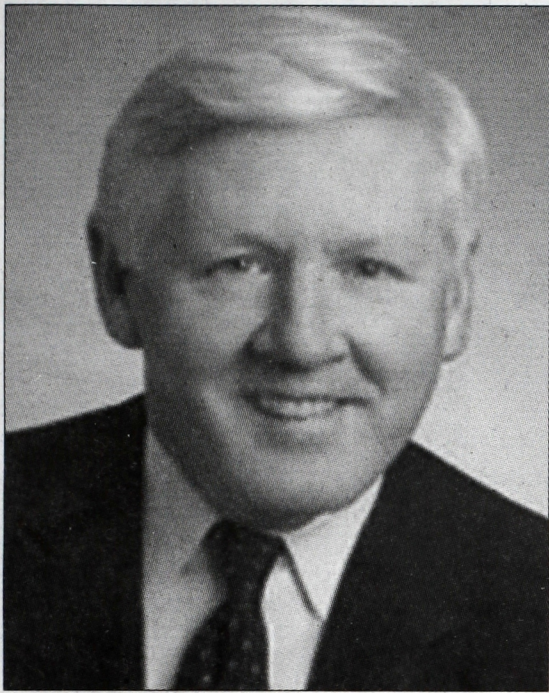
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CAMPUS NEWS

Rae Review: reviewed



BOB RAE

Continued from Page 1

As many students already know, Sudbury hosted its two Round-Table dialogues (one in English and one in French) and its Town Hall meeting Tuesday, Oct. 19. These events were peppered with input relating to quality and accessibility for all students, past or present, in the PSE system.

What Students Want

The consistent message from students and community members across the province is the need for increased quality and accessibility to PSE. Most can agree that there is a problem with current funding models, as class sizes increase and buildings fall apart. The proposed solution is an increase of funding from the federal and provincial governments so that quality can be restored.

As for increased accessibility, the words are on everyone's lips: "Reduce tuition fees," since financial obstacles are the primary barriers to students hoping to attend Post-Secondary. Also, students are hoping to see a re-introduction of needs based grants to help ease the financial burden of attending PSE.

Scepticism Unleashed

Despite the amazing potential of the Review, students have seen some causes for concern. The first concern is the compromised credibility of the panel. Early in Aug., before the Rae Review had even begun its consultation process, Minister of Training and Colleges Mary Anne Chambers was quoted in the Toronto Sun as saying that tuition fees could go up after the completion of the province's tuition fee freeze.

This statement came as a surprise to students across the province, as it has been consistently proven that 82 percent of Ontarians support tuition fee freezes and reductions.

One month later, an unnamed member

of the Rae Panel was quoted in McLean's magazine as saying "tuition is going to have to go up." Again, this statement was printed before the Panel embarked on its public consultation.

Additionally, Rae himself has stated that "tuition will go up," and that he opposes centrally regulated tuition fees.

The Rae Review has thus left community members concerned that the consultation process is more of a charade and less of a method for collecting public input.

What We Have Done So Far

As mentioned above, the Rae Review made its appearance in Sudbury two weeks ago, and the student presence was impressive. There were student representatives at each of the Round Table Dialogues, and nearly a dozen students stood up and spoke at the microphones during the Town Hall meeting.

The student input into the process has been considerable, and is emphasized by the constant flow of student-signed postcards and letters in Bob Rae's Toronto Law Office. Information sessions have been held, and people are shaking. In fact, out of the work around the Rae Review, something called the Education Action Collective/Action collective pour l'éducation has grown.

Across the province, students' unions have been getting students to the microphones, spreading awareness, talking on the media and collecting signatures on petitions and postcards.

What You Can Do

The Students' General Association/Association general des étudiant-e-s has been hard at work distributing postcards, petitions and buttons and getting the word out to both the Rae Panel and the larger student community.

Here are some simple things that you can do to make a difference. Some things only take 5 minutes to do, so get active!

- Write a letter, sign the postcard and petition and wear the button. All three (plus Bob Rae's address) are available at the SGA office in the Student Centre;

- Visit www.raereview.on.ca for more information on the review process;

- Check out the Canadian Federation of Students' alternative website www.reviewrae.ca;

- Come out to the Education Action Collective/ Action collective pour l'éducation meetings. For meeting times, contact vpissues@sga.laurentian.ca;

- Contact vpissues@sga.laurentian.ca for upcoming events and opportunities throughout the year; and

- The SGA/ AGE is currently preparing a submission to the Rae Review website. Contact president@sga.laurentian.ca or vpissues@sga.laurentian.ca to set up an appointment. We need all the student input we can get!

MEET THE PANEL

Bob Rae

Heading up the Rae Review Panel

Record: Former Premier of Ontario in the 1990s.

Opened the floodgates for tuition fee increases, removed needs-based grants and removed OHIP coverage from International Students.

Don Drummond

Record: Senior Vice President and Chief

Economist of the TD Bank since 2000. Was among the architects of the federal fiscal strategy that removed billions from Post Secondary Institutions.

Leslie Church

Record: A former Alberta student, this person has lobbied for tuition fee increases and the introduction of Income-Contingent Loan Repayment schemes.

William Davis

Record: Former Premier of Ontario from 1971-1985. This Conservative Premier actually supported public universities during times of increased demand.

Richard Johnston

Record: President of Centennial College, and has supported the Canadian Federation of Students in our events and campaigns.

Huguette Labelle

Record: Chancellor of the University of Ottawa.

Ian Davidson

Record: Sudbury's current Chief of Police. Has done extensive work with the Francophone and Aboriginal communities around the Sudbury area. Further, he is committed to Northern and student concerns.

Dr. Inez Elliston

Record: Alumni representative on the University of Toronto's Governing Council.

Notice anyone missing???

Hint: Who is representing you?

Top 10 signs of a suspicious PSE consultation process

10) Each of the educated members of the panel paid a fraction of today's tuition fees when they went to school

9) Timelines for research, consultation and report are shorter than the time it takes for a human pregnancy to come to full term.

8) Shareholder representation appears before stakeholder representation

7) The only student on the panel did not go to school in Ontario

and does not have strong ties to the student community. Instead, she went to school in Alberta and has advocated for tuition fee increases (!)

6) It is an "unbiased" and "objective" study where three people on the panel have already predicted the results

5) The possibility of reducing tuition fees (a overwhelmingly popular public policy) is not on the radar

4) The fact that Rae keeps repeating "tuition fees are not a barrier to education" (who told him that, anyway?)

3) Structure, structure, structure

2) The only elected officials have already retired.

1) Bob Rae is heading the panel. And he's talking "accessibility".

CAMPUS NEWS

Activist documentary: reality, ethics and truth

On November 4-5, an event will take place on the Laurentian campus "Activist Documentary: Whose Reality? Whose Truth?" This is the first activity in the Interdisciplinary Humanities MA in Interpretation and Values' 2004-2005 Colloquium Series on "The Ethics and Rhetoric of Spin." In a time when activist documentarian Michael Moore is receiving both an Oscar and death threats, the role of activist documentary in making public knowledge and forming public opinion deserves special attention. Admission is free and everyone is invited.

On Thursday, November 4, from 7 to 9 p.m., in room C309, Laurentian's Classroom Building, will be a free public screening of Laura Sky's 1984 30-minute documentary "All of Our Lives." This documentary is about women and pensions, a subject that is in the public eye as Ontario debates the abolition of mandatory retirement. The film and its director Laura Sky will be introduced by Dr. Peter Steven, a media specialist with expertise on Canadian documentary. Following the screening, Laura Sky will speak about her approach to documentary filmmaking.

On Friday, November 5, from 10 am until noon in the Senate Chambers, 11th floor of Laurentian's R.D. Parker Building, Laura Sky, Dr. Peter Steven, Dr. Philippa Spoel, LU English professors, and Dr. Michael Yeo, LU philosophy professor, will form a panel to debate questions related to Laura Sky's documentary, "All of Our Lives."

Laura Sky

Laura Sky is one of Canada's most distinguished documentary filmmakers. As a key member of the National Film Board, she paved the way for the establishment of "Studio D," a special unit devoted to films on women's issues. Ms. Sky is known as a pioneer filmmaker for the women's liberation movement of the 1970s. She established the Sky Works Charitable Foundation in 1983, which has contributed to the development of her 18 feature documentaries, which have been televised on TVOntario, CBC

Newsworld, Bravo!, Saskatchewan Communications Network, Knowledge Network in B.C. and Vision TV. She has also won numerous national and international awards with her early works. She was awarded an honorary doctorate from Laurentian University in June 2004.

Peter Steven

Dr. Peter Steven, an editor with Between the Lines Press in Toronto, has worked in and around media for many years, teaching, writing film scripts and making television and video programs. He is the author of several books, including *Jump Cut: Hollywood, Politics and Counter-Cinema* and *Brink of Reality: New Canadian Documentary Film and Video*. In 2004 he published *The No-Nonsense Guide to Global Media*, in which he looks at the ever-greater concentration of ownership and at the convergence of technologies and media functions, as well as the diversity of local media production and media around the world.

Philippa Spoel

Dr. Philippa Spoel, an English professor at Laurentian University, specializes in rhetoric. She is currently the principal investigator for a multi-year Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) funded rhetorical analysis of the regulatory documents governing Ontario's midwifery profession.

Michael Yeo

Dr. Michael Yeo is a philosophy professor at Laurentian University specialized in continental philosophy and ethics. He was an ethicist with the Canadian Medical Association from 1997 to 2001. His major area of interest and expertise is privacy.

For more information, please contact Dr. Laurence Steven, director of Laurentian University's Interdisciplinary Humanities MA, at (705) 675-1151, ext. 4353, or Ms. Francine Arsenault, coordinator of LU's Interdisciplinary Humanities MA, at (705) 675 1151, ext. 4352.



CFS challenges student bankruptcy law on charter grounds

(CUP) — The Canadian Federation of Students is challenging a controversial law enacted in 1998 that prevents students from declaring bankruptcy on their student loans for 10 years after they receive them.

"We are hoping that should the law be repealed, that students will have a much easier time dealing with the funding of their educations by being able to claim bankruptcy on their loans," said Mike Komlin of the CFS's Ontario branch.

The application to repeal the Bankruptcy and Insolvency Act was heard in the Ontario Superior Court June 16. While the case has been adjourned and a ruling will not be made for several weeks, the minority Liberals are under pressure from the New Democrats to change or eliminate it altogether.

"Paul Martin needs to fix the problem he created. Reducing federal support to education in the mid-1990s forced tuition fees up in every province. Paul Martin's response in the 2003 budget was to listen to Stephen Harper and increase the ceiling on Canada student loans, as if more debt was the fix students were calling for," said NDP Leader Jack Layton.

The CFS has been lobbying against the Bankruptcy and Insolvency Act since 1997, when the initial idea of implementing the act was just a proposition. The act was passed but amended in 1998, increasing the period after which a student can legally claim bankruptcy on their student loans from two to 10 years. This change, according to the student lobby group, was never debated in the House of Commons.

Once the CFS began to fill out affidavits in a serious attempt to have the law repealed in 2000, they found many lawmakers were surprised the law had been changed with little discussion.

One of the main arguments put forth by the CFS is its contention the act violates section 15 of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, pertaining to equality rights. According to the section: "Every individual is equal before the law without discrimination."

It continues: "Once the state does provide a benefit, it is obliged to do so in a non-discriminatory manner in which special measures must be taken to ensure that disadvantaged groups are able to benefit equally from government sources."

The federal government's defence is they provide successful programs, such as interest relief and the Millennium Scholarship Foundation, which aid in debt reduction.

Interest relief assists students whose family income goes below a certain level by having the government pay the interest on the loan for a maximum of 30 months. Once those 30 months have expired, students still dealing with loan hardships can apply for extended interest relief of 24 months provided the student applies for it within five years after the initial interest relief has expired.

Once these avenues have been exhausted, the last resort for students is to default on their loans. If they default, they may be reported to credit agencies and can forfeit their income tax breaks.

The NDP is supporting the CFS's challenge. "Exempting student debt from bankruptcy is just cynical and discriminatory. The government is saying you have no protection should you take on too much debt to finance the growing cost of your education, but if you lose \$40,000 playing blackjack at the casino, we will gladly absolve you," said Layton.

Huntington to award honorary degrees

Huntington University will be awarding honorary degrees to James D. Smith, Doris Monahan, and Fern Nichols at the University's Fall Convocation today, which will take place at 8 pm, at St. Andrew's United Church in Sudbury.

Jim Smith

James "Jim" D. Smith will receive the degree of Doctor of Sacred Letters. Born in Creighton Mine (just outside of Sudbury), Jim had a distinguished career as an educational administrator, and served as Director of the Sudbury Board of Education from 1984 until his retirement in 1995.

In 1997, he received the Mitre Award in Education from Thorneloe University for his excellence as an educator, innovator and proponent of teamwork and good will. Jim has also been active in many capacities in the community. Since 1989, he has been a member of the Board of Governors of Laurentian University, and is currently the Chair.

He was also the first Chair of the Sudbury Regional Hospital Board from 1997 to 2001, as well as

Chair of the Hospital's Transition Team in 1997. From 1975 to '89, he was a member of the Huntington University's Board of Regents, and was Chair of the Board in 1983 to 84. A longtime member of St. Andrew's United Church in Sudbury, Jim was Chair of Ministry and Personnel from 1995 to 2000. He is currently Chair of the Sudbury Dragon Boat Festival.

Doris Monahan

Doris Monahan will receive the degree of Honorary Fellow of Huntington University. Born in Timmins, Doris has been a Trustee of the Trillium Lakelands District School Board for Huntsville and Lake of Bays since 1989, and has served as Vice Chair and Chair.

In 2002, she received the Dr. Harry Paikin Award of Merit from the Ontario Public School Boards. A lifetime member of The United Church of Canada, Doris has served as Chair of Church Council at Trinity United in Huntsville, Chair of Muskoka Presbytery, and as a member of various committees of the Toronto

Conference. She also has been a volunteer for Meals on Wheels in Huntsville since 1973.

Fern Nichols

Fern Nichols will also receive the degree of Honorary Fellow of Huntington University. Born in Saskatchewan, Fern has been active in the northeastern Ontario communities of Abitibi Canyon and Haileybury for nearly all of her adult life.

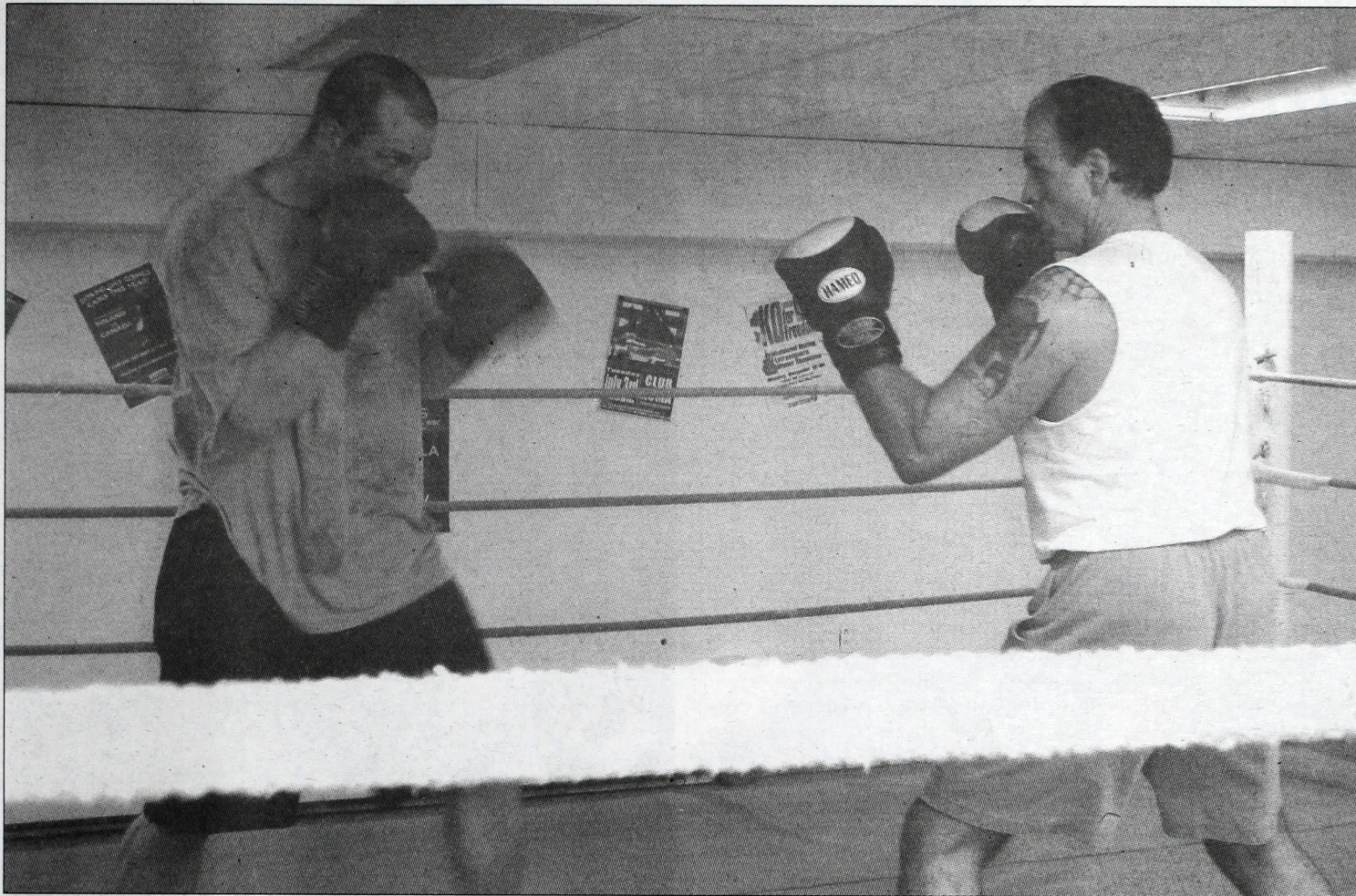
A member of St. Andrew's United Church in Haileybury, Fern has been a Trustee, Steward and Elder. She also organized the church's Neighborhood Café program, which since 1991 has provided hot lunches every Monday for people in need.

She also has served as a member of the Temiskaming Hospital Board, the Temiskaming Board of Health, Coordinator for the local Arthritis Society, Chair of the Volunteer Program at Haileybury Extendicare, and Worthy Matron of the local Eastern Star. Her previous awards include Citizen of the Year from the Town of Haileybury.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Arts & Entertainment Editors: Ben Rowe and James Hopkin - lambda_arts@laurentian.ca

New facility brings Fight Club to Sudbury



James Hopkin / LAMBDA

Super heavy-weight Kyle Gauthier spurs with Fight Club President Terry "Doc" Witzu.

BY JAMES HOPKIN
ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

Unlike the movie, this Fight Club is not about the bare-knuckled bludgeoning of your opponent.

The new training facility known as Fight Club Sudbury, located in the city's downtown core teaches a quite different kind of fight that is both extremely disciplined and sportsmanlike: Olympic-style boxing.

"The science of Olympic boxing is not brawling at all," said Terry "Doc" Witzu, president of Fight Club. "In fact, a brawler would lose hands down to a skilled scientific boxer because of the discipline that is associated with Olympic boxing."

The idea for a downtown boxing facility came to Witzu and his partner, head coach Randall Hill, during their tenure at the Ontario National Training Center (ONTC) outside of the city. "The two of us decided there was a need for a core-area boxing club because people couldn't get to Azilda or the valley," said Witzu.

According to Hill, who has coached members of the ONTC and elite status athletes over the span of his twelve-year career, Fight Club would like nothing more than to take kids off the streets and teach them how to vent their frustrations in a more constructive manner. "Our intent was to give inner-city youth an opportunity to actually have a place to train that was low-cost and low-maintenance." When people join Fight Club, the staff reinforces their intentions by encouraging its new members to sign their names on the walls of club in order to establish a sense of ownership. "We like to tell them that this place is their's, and we firmly believe that," said Hill. "This place was built for them. This is their house."

The house that Witzu and Hill have built offers beginner, intermediate and advanced classes for both youths and adults five days a week. It also boasts a complete weight training room, heavy bags, speed bags and of course, a box-

ing ring.

Fight Club has also become the new training ground for 2003 national female champion Amanda Beaulieu and super-heavyweight contender Kyle Gauthier, who is headed to the upcoming provincial finals in St. Catharines.

"He's probably our best fighter," enthused Witzu. "He uses that blue bag over there. We had it hooked up with one chain, now we have it hooked up with three because he hit it right out of the concrete!"

Witzu, who has fought over 70 major fights, and continues to compete at age 55, was first inspired to box at 13 years-old when he met Canadian boxing legend George Chavallo at a boxing club in Toronto.

"He made a tremendous impression on me, because I grew up at Landsdowne and Queen," said Witzu. "I was a core city kid, and boxing got me off the streets." It is the streets, Witzu says, where Fight Club began to search for boxing enthusiasts.

"We've actually gone out and talked to people on the streets and in various establishments," he said. "We've had people take cards and show a lot of interest in joining Fight Club. What we're trying to do is get the kids out of the Flour Mill and the Donovan to vent their frustrations. There's not a lot for them to do."

Those currently participating seem to be interested as well.

"We've seen people get very enthusiastic," said Witzu. "We try to evoke a lot of emotion. We're very energized here, and it rubs off on our students."

Some new students have even managed to begin "shadow boxing," a light-contact sparring session, in a matter of two weeks.

"We're pretty impressed," said Witzu. "That's dedication and discipline for them to work that hard."

Olympic style boxing is, in fact, all about discipline. The emphasis is on strategic defence and speed rather than brute force. The object of the sport is to win points by landing more "scoring" blows to target areas than your oppo-

nent. There are only four two-minute rounds, and headgear is mandatory.

"I would say boxing is 99 per cent mental," said Witzu. "You're out-thinking your opponent by blocking and throwing different combinations of punches, and moving in a direction that your opponent is not expecting you to move."

Although Witzu has trained in many other styles of contact sports, he says boxing is hands down the hardest workout. This is why Fight Club also recommends their classes for those just simply looking to get in shape.

"Of all the sports that I've trained in, the boxing workout is probably the toughest workout that you're ever going to get," said Witzu. "If someone doesn't necessarily want to box they can come here, train and get fit."

And get fit you will. In addition to an initial 25-minute warm-up at the beginning of any given session, students are also required to complete an exercise in either shadow boxing or "technical-tactical," a drill where a student works on a fundamental aspect of boxing in which they are lacking. Students are even expected to take turns teaching other members as a method of reinforcing fundamentals through repetition.

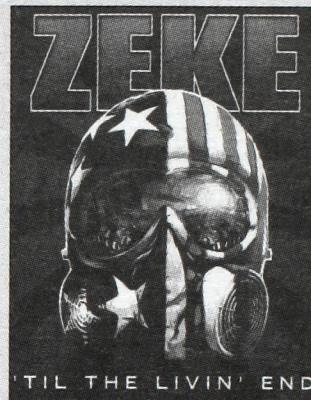
"In order to learn something very well, you have to be able to teach it," said Hill. "I think the basics are of primary importance, even if you're an Olympic-calibre athlete."

Fight Club doesn't discriminate when teaching the basics either, as their classes are open to men and women of all ages. It is their intention, in fact, to become a breeding ground for emerging talent.

"I'd love to see in excess of a 100 members," said Hill. "I want to see some provincial and national champs, and to do some international traveling."

Classes are held at Fight Club (158 Durham St.) Monday through Friday from 6 to 8 p.m. For more information contact Witzu or Hill at 691-3988 or 562-3021.

METAL SHOW THIS SUNDAY



Fans of punk-laden, balls-to-the-wall rock n' roll should definitely check out Relapse Records recording artists ZEKE when they perform at the TowneHouse Tavern Sunday, November 7.

The Seattle junkie-rock trio is currently touring in support of their new album, 'Til the Living End,' a potent mix of punk nihilism and heavy metal extravagance. According to vocalist/guitarist Marky Felchtone, the band has indulged in everything rock n' roll from "incidents involving cake, drugs and under-aged females" to "black metal homicides." Metal notables performing with ZEKE on Sunday include Misery Index, who most recently opened for the almighty Napalm Death and Canadian grindcore monsters Despised Icon. Should be a kickin' evening of heavy metal debauchery!

CONTACT US

To let Lambda's A&E Editor's know about your event, contact either James Hopkin or Ben Rowe at lambda_arts@laurentian.ca, or call us at 673-6548.

To Laurentian artists: don't forget to let us know when you are having a CD released, exhibition held, etc. We want to know what you are doing in to art community!

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Arts & Entertainment Editors: Ben Rowe and James Hopkin - lambda_arts@laurentian.ca

Stratford festival provided students with enhancing escape from everyday life

BY TARYN GREEN
LAMBDA CONTRIBUTOR

In today's society the threat of war rages between powerful countries, politicians and governments can get themselves into very sticky situations, and murder and scandal plague the eleven o'clock news.

However, there is also the other side of life where great love can conquer all, where laughter is the best kind of medicine to help see life a little less seriously, where family and friends create a strong bond of loving support, and where the influence of magical enchantment provides hope for life's great dreamers.

Not only does a mixture of all these things explain present day life, but it also creates the complex plots of the many Shakespearean plays from centuries ago.

English and theatre students know that the plays of Shakespeare are more than just gibberish language and one must remember that reading his plays and seeing them being performed are two completely different experiences.

Shakespearean plays were meant to be watched, not read - and what many might not see is that behind the weird language, at times far too hard to understand, are many hidden truths that can still be applied to the present day.

In celebration of William Shakespeare and the elaborate and colourful plays he has written, Laurentian University students traveled to Stratford for the festival on Oct. 19 and 20, attending two plays: Henry VIII and A Midsummer Night's Dream.

This annual trip was organized by Kelly Smith, the English Department secretary, for the enjoyment of Laurentian students and staff and to offer two fun-filled days of taking in the unique atmosphere and sights of a small city named after the birthplace of William Shakespeare.

"The annual trip to the Stratford Festival is a wonderful opportunity for students to see live theatre, specifically, two Shakespearean plays by top-rate performers," Smith said. "Also, some students, particularly those in the Theatre Arts Program at Thorneloe, participate in the backstage or costume tours."

"I think students enjoy the trip not only because of the theatre, but also because

Stratford is such a fun place to visit."

The English Department has been organizing this annual trip, which always takes place during the third week of October, for over twenty years. "The offices of the Vice-President, Academic and the Dean of Social Sciences and Humanities contribute financially to the trip, allowing the cost to be reduced and making it financially easier for students to go," Smith added.

The evening performance of Henry VIII gave audience members a glimpse of history in the making. The acting was extremely well done, creating the perfect amount of drama for the audience to experience the changes England endured during Henry's reign.

However, the favourite of the two was A Midsummer Night's Dream, which took place in the present day, while maintaining the magical atmosphere and enchantment this play is so well known for.

The vivid colour of sets, props and costumes, as well as acrobatic forest fairies diving from the rafters in somersaulting unity, gave a Cirque du Soleil feel to the whole play. It captivated audiences with its comedic interaction between the characters, keeping them laughing right up until the very end.

The performers were electric and enthusiastic as they reminded the audience of the magical world that still exists today and to never stop dreaming and following one's heart.

Students look forward to this annual excursion away from endless reading and essay writing. The success of the trip is seen as eager and excited students quickly book the forty available seats within the first month of September.

It is a chance for students to meet others from their program and other programs, dress up, attend the performances and then join friends and fellow classmates for a drink at one of the local pubs. Not only do they leave with a new outlook on their studies or Shakespearean plays in general, but also many memories of their times spent at Laurentian.

As students are already looking forward to next year, special thanks goes out to the supporters of the Stratford trip as well as to Kelly Smith for organizing and coordinating the annual excursion.



Jenna Smith / LAMBDA

Shown above is one of William Shakespeare's statues, which is located in front of the theatre where the plays are performed in Stratford.

Laurentian student set to release debut CD



BY LUKE NORTON
LAMBDA STAFF

With a week and a half to go before the release of her debut CD, Aimee Leonard sat down with me and discussed what music means to her. As I soon found out, music is more than just lyrics and melodies for the Laurentian student: it's a

powerful way of connecting with people.

"Music is so connected to our lives," Leonard says, "just putting a song on can bring back memories or take you back to a time."

"What I want to do with my music is to connect with people the way other artists have connected with me. I just hope that somebody one day can say, 'that's my song,

that's so what I'm feeling right now, that's what I'm going through'... I think that would be really great."

When I asked her why she believed that music has such a strong connection to people everywhere, Leonard pointed out that it is intricately connected to what makes us alive. "Music lives inside each of us. Our bodies are an instrument: our heart has a beat, it has percussion...there are ways of fine tuning a voice to make it an instrument."

"I like music because it does something to you. Maybe it changes the way you look at things, or maybe it helps you grow. That's what music does for me, it changes me."

When it comes to writing songs, Leonard consciously follows the pop formula, which she feels gives a song a sense of continuity that

allows a wider audience to tap into her music. "For the most part, if I'm going to present something to the public, I like it to be welcoming, to let people into the song. I like the audience to be part of the song. I want to sing with people, I don't want to sing at them."

Leonard's music is greatly influenced by female singer songwriters like Ani DiFranco and Tori Amos, as well as by her love of vocal jazz artists like Ella Fitzgerald.

"What inspires me the most is people who like to do the same kinds of things that I do," Leonard says. "People that write from personal emotions, or express a social or political opinion in a really poetic and welcoming light."

She also independently produced her album, and views it as a gift that technol-

ogy allows songwriters and musicians to create music without demand dictating what can or can not be done.

"There's never been a time in history when there has been more recorded music, and there's a big following for independent music right now," Leonard says. "The stuff that's pouring out of the industry has become so general and watered-down that people are turning to something deeper."

Aimee Leonard's debut CD, What Happened?, will be released Friday, Nov. 19 at 100 Georges (downtown at the corner of Durham and Cedar). The cover will be \$4 at the door, or \$10 for admission and a copy of her CD (this night only!). Aimee and the band will play a couple of one-hour sets, and the show gets under way at 9:30pm.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Arts & Entertainment Editors: Ben Rowe and James Hopkin - lambda_arts@laurentian.ca

Closet Monster headlines punk show at TowneHouse Halloween bash



Members of Closet Monster during their performance at the TowneHouse on October 30.

Kris Harris / LAMBDA

BY BEN ROWE
ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

Halloween and punk music.

Maybe not ideal bedfellows, but the combination worked wonders at the TowneHouse Tavern on Saturday, Oct. 30, as four punk bands took the stage in front of costumed revelers.

High Five Drive, Shotgun Rules, Protest the Hero, and Closet Monster appeared on the night prior to All Hallows Eve to give spectators a blend of punk styles, from pop to power to good old-fashioned anarchist, anti-establishment punk music.

Campus radio station CKLU participated by featuring a day of all punk music to coincide with the performances. The radio station also sponsored the male and female best costume prizes: a year of no cover charges for the lucky winners.

For Closet Monster, the performance was a stop along the way on their current 41-day Underground Operations Unity Tour that will take them across Canada with only about four days off the entire tour. The band just finished touring, spending most of September and early October with Alexisonfire, Moneen and Hopesfall.

Now, they're hitting the road again, a situation that suits them fine.

"We tour as much as possible," said guitarist and singer Jesse Colburn.

"Last year we toured about nine months of the year," explained Adam Underground (his real last name), another guitar player and singer for the band.

"It's a great way to see the country, but it's very tiring," Colburn said, then quickly added "but I'm not one to complain about my job, it's one of the coolest jobs."

The group has been together about seven years and formed in suburban Toronto. The punk scene, both the mentality and the music, were obvious allures, said Colburn.

"For me personally, someone gave me a Sex Pistols tape," he said. "I listened to it, and it totally sucked. I remember thinking that to myself, it

sucks, yet it's so good at the same time. It told me that if it's so good and it sucks, that I could do the same thing."

Not only did the music appeal to him and his fellow bandmates, the entire attitude of punk was compelling to self-described "suburban kids with dick-all to do."



Kris Harris / LAMBDA

Closet Monster's Adam Underground salutes the crowd with Crown on Saturday during their performance.

The band views punk as more a state of mind than a fashion or even a music. To them, Underground explained, the punk scene was more about finding people like themselves: that is, misfits and outsiders to the mainstream, people who don't necessarily ascribe to "normal" assumptions about society and the way it works.

However, their music isn't just about speaking out due to boredom or teenage angst.

"There's a little more intelligence than just 'fuck the man,'" Colburn explained.

"Punk rock inspired me to think,

and it drew me toward the whole genre, the attitude and the politics and the community that punk rock is."

For Closet Monster, the performance was their first Halloween appearance in Sudbury, and Underground said they enjoyed the experience.

"Love it, it was amazing, even though a lot of people were just here for the whole costume thing, it was still amazing," he laughed.

For another band on the bill, the opportunity to play the TowneHouse came about after a group that was originally slated to play had to drop out.

"Because Bombs Over Providence dropped out, we got the chance to play," explained Greg Rekus, one of the guitarists and singers for High-Five Drive.

High-Five Drive had one more day left on their current tour before going home. With no concert on tap for Halloween, Rekus called up the TowneHouse, a venue they've been to before.

"We basically just said, 'We need to play this day [Oct. 30], and we know there's a great show at the Towne House,' and they were nice enough to help us out," he said.

High Five Drive is gaining a reputation as a promising band. They recently won a contest put on by radio station Power 97 in their native Winnipeg, along with four other bands. The entire group got to put out a compilation CD with three songs each on it.

Like Closet Monster, High Five Drive relished the opportunity to travel the country, doing shows from Victoria, B.C. to Halifax, N.S., Rekus said. He continued that they've been to "pretty much every major city" in Canada on their latest tour, only skipping Quebec City and Toronto, when those venues fell through.

Closet Monster, Protest the Hero, Bombs Over Providence and Hostage Life have teamed up to release an album.

While the record may be difficult to find, check out the Web site maple.music.com or closetmonster.com for more information.

A&E BRIEFS

Former LU student to release 2nd album

Angie Nussey, a former Liberal Sciences student at Laurentian, will be holding a CD release party on Nov. 11 at 100 Georges on Cedar St.

Nussey's second album, 'Paint and Turpentine,' was released in Toronto on Oct. 21, but she wanted to return to Sudbury to launch it in a place she knows, according to her Web site, angienussey.com.

The album was put out under her own label, Dragonfly Distribution.

The show will feature Nussey accompanied by her band 'Her Pants,' with special guest Johnny Williams. Show starts at 9:30pm, tickets are \$6 at the door.

Coming up at the TowneHouse

The TowneHouse features a diverse group of artists to cater to a wide range of musical tastes. This month is no exception. Here's what's coming up:

Nov. 6th: Aparatus;

Nov. 7th: Metal show featuring Misery Index and Despised Icon;

Nov. 9th: The Sadies, described as "psychedelic surf country," finally come to Sudbury.

Nov. 11th: The Ludes and Femme Generation, with The Ludes described as a mix of the Pixies and T-Rex and both bands featuring "buzzsaw guitars;"

Nov. 12th: Mr. Something Something, an eclectic blend of funk, latin, world and dance music;

Nov. 13th: Shikasta, heavily into garage/soul.

Go to thetownehouse.com for information on upcoming events.

LAMBDA SPORTS

Sports Editor: Kris Harris - lambda_sports@laurentian.ca

Women's soccer team advances to Semi-finals



Kris Harris / LAMBDA

Continued from Page 1

"She has been battling through injuries all season long, it was great to see her break out and convert on her scoring chances," Gallo said. MacKenzie suffered another injury, a charlie-horse, in the game against Brock, but she still finished strong. The coach said that her performance really helped the team.

"It's an epic story," Gallo said. "She was the most dominate forward in that game. I think the team was really inspired."

"You can't stop her. She's one of the toughest athletes I've ever met."

The Lady Vees then travelled to Toronto for a quarter-final match against the York Lions on Halloween. The Lady Vees had played the Lions to ties in both of their regular-season meetings, and once again the two teams seemed evenly matched.

Neither team was able to score in regulation time, and the game went into overtime tied

at zero. No scoring in the regulatory overtime period meant that penalty shots would decide which squad would advance to the OUA semi-finals.

Midfielder Jolene Fournier, forward Erin Wilkes and midfielder Lauren Duhaime scored on penalty kicks for the Lady Vees, and a timely stop by goalie Julia Boschetto on a penalty shot gave Laurentian the 3-2 edge and kept the team's championship dreams alive.

"The team battled hard every minute of the game," Gallo said. "They showed character, grit and determination."

"Julia stole that game. She made a couple of tremendous saves in regulation."

The Lady Vees have been alternating goal-tenders all year long, and the playoffs were no different. McNamara backstopped Laurentian to victory in the first game, and Boschetto did the same in the second game.

"We have every confidence in both keepers," Gallo said. "We've used them back-to-back all year long. It's a testament to their relationship."

He also mentioned the team's other two goalies as being instrumental to the success of the Lady Vees this year.

"C.J. Cope and Erin Persi have been practicing diligently, and they are very much responsible for pushing these two," the coach said.

The Lady Vees semi-final match will take place on Nov. 6 against Western University in Kingston. The coach said the team will be ready for Western.

"There's no pressure on us," Gallo said. "Western is the favoured team. We've got nothing to lose. I don't think this team will back down from anybody."

"They don't want to be beat. They truly believe they're going to go in there and win that game."

If they win that game, the team will secure a spot in the national championships. Win or lose, the team will play for a medal on Nov. 7.

SPORTS BRIEFS

Lady Vees cross-country team takes 9th at OUA Championships

The Laurentian Lady Vees women's cross-country team took on some of the best runners across the country when they competed in the OUA championships at Sunnybrook Park in Toronto on Oct. 30, yielding some excellent individual and team results.

The team placed ninth in the overall team standings in the five-kilometre event. Leila Angrand took the bronze medal in the event with her time of 18:22. This exceptional time earned Angrand OUA All-Star honours, which she has now won two years in a row.

"That was the fastest I've ever seen Leila finish a race," said assistant coach Darren Jermyn. "She was 27 seconds off third place, then absolutely flew when she hit the final kilometre marker. It wasn't until the final 10 metres that she won her medal."

Rookie runner Kirsti Dolson was the second member of the Lady Vees to cross the finish line with a time of 19:21, which was good enough for her to capture 22nd place. She finished the race third among rookies.

Other notable Laurentian finishes included: Alicia Kaye in 47th, Melanie Muise in 63rd, Jennie Oliver in 71st, Marnie Smith in 74th, and Caitlin Tino in 82nd.

"The girls ran hard," said head coach Dick Moss. "They're a tough bunch and I am proud of how they competed."

Next up for the Lady Vees cross-country team will be the CIS championships, which are slated for Nov. 13 in Guelph.

'Duel of the Pool' Aqua Vees take on Waterloo Warriors

This, Halloween, Laurentian's Aqua Vees swimming teams were back in the pool when they travelled to Waterloo for a meet against the Warriors in what was dubbed the 'duel in the pool.' The women's team beat up on Waterloo by a final score of 197-79, while the men's side was defeated by a 158-116 count.

Despite the loss by the men, team veteran Marshall Bonner performed well, setting a Waterloo pool record and CIS standard swim in the 50m-backstroke. His time of 24.65 was almost a full four seconds ahead of the second-place swimmer. Bonner also earned first-place finishes in the 50m-breaststroke and the 800m-freestyle medley, and second-place finishes in 50m-butterfly and 400 medley relay.

On the women's side, Stephanie Kuhn helped the Lady Vees to victory with her five first-place finishes, including the 50m- and 100m-freestyle events and the 100m-butterfly.

"We're very happy with these results," said head coach Phil Parker. "All of our swimmers are starting to come together as a team. The team will now look to fine tune their execution skills this upcoming weekend."

"With the 2004 divisional championships drawing close, the team must stay focussed and practice hard."

Next up for the Aqua Vees will be a home meet against a trio of schools: Laurier, York and Ryerson, on Nov. 5-6 in Sudbury. Start times are scheduled for 4:30 on Saturday and 10:30 on Sunday.

Season over for mens soccer team

The Laurentian Voyageurs men's soccer team suffered a disappointing end to their season last weekend, winning its first playoff game but losing its second to be eliminated from the OUA playoffs in the round of eight.

Despite winning its final regular season game, 2-1 over the Nipissing Lakers, the Voyageurs finished third in the North division, setting up a tough playoff situation. On Oct. 29, the Voyageurs made the trip south to Guelph to take on the Gryphons in first-round action.

In the 10th minute of the game, Laurentian jumped out to an early lead when forward Giuseppe Politi scored his first of two on the afternoon. The lead was short-lived, however, as the Gryphons evened the score midway through the first half. The Voyageurs managed to regain the lead when midfielder Stephen Soutar headed a shot behind the Gryphons' goalie, making the score 2-1 at the half.

The second half was even more intense than the first, as both teams strove to keep their play-off hopes alive. After a red card to midfielder Patrick Murphy left the Voyageurs short-handed for the remainder of the game, Guelph tied the score. Despite many offensive chances for both teams, nothing was decided in ninety minutes of play. This game was headed for overtime.

Early in the extra frame, Politi was taken down in the box, and was therefore awarded a

penalty shot. He made no mistake at this crucial juncture, powering the ball past the Gryphons goalie for a golden goal and giving Laurentian the 3-2 win.

"The boys played with some great intensity and attitude this afternoon," said head coach Carlo Castrechino.

This victory set up a challenging quarter-final match for the Voyageurs against the Brock Badgers on Halloween day in St. Catharines. Laurentian was looking to avenge the loss that Brock had handed to them in regular season action, but instead it was the Badgers who walked off the field with a 3-0 win.

This game was fiercely played; four Brock players and two Laurentian players were given yellow cards.

Brock netted the first goal of the game in the 25th minute, giving the Badgers a 1-0 lead at the break. The second half yielded Brock two more goals, both near the end of the game, sealing the fate of the Voyageurs.

"We worked hard and we battled hard," Castrechino said. "Brock was just the better team today."

Despite the loss, the coach said he was pleased with his team's performance over the season.

"I'm proud of the boys because they worked hard all year," he said. "They gave me everything they had, and that's all I wanted from them."

LAMBDA SPORTS

Sports Editor: Kris Harris - lambda_sports@laurentian.ca

Women's basketball team finishes fifth in preseason

The Lady Vees women's basketball team finished the preseason in fine fashion, winning the 2004 Sea-Hawks Invitational tournament in Newfoundland, vaulting the team up the national rankings. The Lady Vees are currently tied for fifth spot in the CIS-rankings with the University of Calgary.

"All the pieces are in place for us to make a big move forward this year," said head coach Mike Clarke.

The squad is led by its team captain, fifth year shooting guard Tierney Hoo, a four-time OUA All-star, who is on pace to graduate as the OUA's all-time leading scorer. Hoo doesn't provide all the team's experience, however, as three other fifth year players will finish their Laurentian careers this season. Caitlin Blackadder is the emotional sparkplug of the Lady Vees and has established herself as a gritty defender and fearless penetrator. Brianne Henry has been the team's most versatile player over her four-year career. A smart and tough 5'11" forward, she has been called on to play and defend virtually all five positions on the court. Kate Walker, a super-athletic 5'7" guard, rounds out the fifth year contingent. Kate, the team's fittest player, is a creative passer and intimidating defender.

In addition to veteran experience and leadership, this year's edition of the Lady Vees features a wealth of enthusiasm and talent. Second year powerhouse Cassandra Carpenter leads the way for the front-court players. The 5'11" forward came out flying during her rookie campaign and established herself as one of the OUA's top scorers and rebounders.

By season's end, she captured OUA All-star and Rookie of the Year honors, and was named the CIS Rookie of the Year. A summer of training and an extra year of maturity should see her soar even higher this season. Fourth year veteran forward Symone Wilson is poised to make a big contribution this season. Wilson, voted the team's Most Improved Player in 2003, is a high-energy performer who uses her explosive athleticism to make big plays. Also returning at forward is 5'9" Ashley MacSporran. Having bounced back from a bout of Mono last season Ashley will bring her sweet three point shot and tough rebounding to the table.

At centre, the team is looking for a trio of rookies to come up big. Christi Bauck, the squad's tallest player at 6'3", will be eager to contribute after missing her entire freshman year due to a knee injury. With some great rehab and a year of weight-training, Christi is ready to be a force inside and on the boards. New comer Amanda McConnell, hailing from Regina, Saskatchewan, will be sharing the post-play duties this year. The high scoring six-footer, a Saskatchewan Provincial Team player, should make a big impact in the OUA. Shannon Chellew, a six-foot local product, rounds out the team's contingent of post players. A late bloomer, Shannon will build on a great summer of workouts to make a strong contribution this year.

A talented group of perimeter players completes this year's roster. Three rookie guards will make their debut for the Lady Vees this season. Hailing from Sudbury, 5'9" Vanessa



BRIANNE HENRY

Jakola, 5'8" Jessica Ross and 5'8" Amy Solc will all be looking to make contributions this year.

Last but not least is prize recruit Lisa Roberts from Langara College in Vancouver B.C. The B.C. Provincial Team player was a College All-Canadian while playing for coach Clarke at Langara. She is a

5'7" guard who can shoot the lights out from behind the arc and her smooth ball handling and passing will quickly make her popular with the loyal Ben Avery crowd.

The Lady Vees basketball team will travel to Ottawa this weekend for games on Friday and Saturday. They don't return home until Nov. 19, when they will take on Western.

More promising year ahead for men's basketball team



Last season was a disappointing one for the men's Voyageur basketball team, finishing 6-16 and coming in seventh in the OUA.

This year's edition of the Voyageurs looks much more promising. With a strong exhibition record of 5-2, the team is poised to start regular season action this weekend when they travel to Ottawa for games against Carleton on Friday and Ottawa on Saturday.

With the loss of shooting guard Jim Jefferson and point guard Ryan Done, the Vees had a summer of serious recruiting and training for the veteran players. Head coach Virgil Hill scoured North America for the best players, and kept the finest and most talented vets from the 2003-2004 squad. The outcome is a capable team, with height, power and maturity; rounded out by the addition of Simon Fraser University alumnus Andrew Steinfeld as assistant coach.

Returning players include fifth year guard Andy Greig, who led the country last year in both three-point averages and free throws; one of the best shot-blockers in the nation, third year centre Ben Palmer; third year forward Aaron Sidenberg, third year guard Nathan Graham, third year forward Jesse Adjei, and second year guards Brody Bishop and Lucas Wiebenga.

The Vees are incorporating Michigan-native Matt Brown, a fourth year guard, into the team, and welcoming Rohan Edwards who, as an exceptional ball handler and tenacious defender, will bring great court vision to the team. Also joining the squad are two first year recruits, forward Alex Whiteman and centre Jonathan Rass, both of whom bring height and length to the Voyageur game. Whiteman also lends a physical presence in the post and Rass allows for height up front, something the Vees have lacked in past seasons.

A tough, defensive minded point guard, Sudbury native Geoff McRae, brings a winning attitude and toughness from Lasalle Secondary School. Returnee Jermaine Glenn finishes out the line-up with added athleticism and length to the front line, a great shot blocking presence and the ability to get up and down the court.

Hill is confident that the 2004-05 Vees can perform within the OUA better than in previous years. He likes the talent and unity they are showing and looks forward to the start of the season.

After starting the season with four road games, the Voyageurs will return home to the Ben Avery Gym on Friday, November 19 for a game against Western.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Science & Technology Editor: Luke Norton - lambda_science@laurentian.ca

Opening of Canadian Light Source ushers new era in scientific research

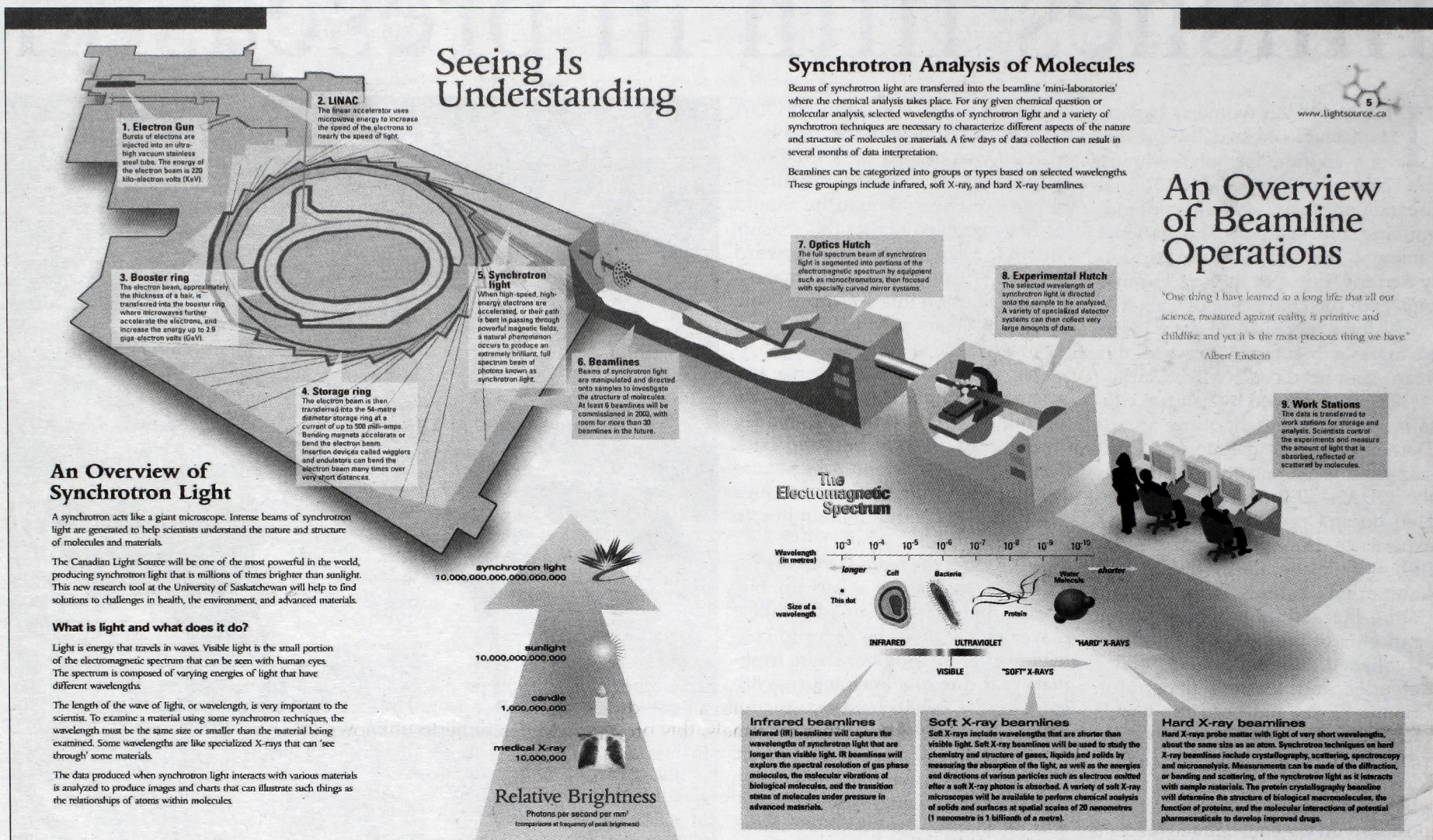


Photo courtesy of Canadian Light Sources Inc., University of Saskatchewan

After five and a half years of construction and an investment of \$174 million, Canadian science has gone global with October's grand opening of the Canadian Light Source (CLS) synchrotron at the University of Saskatchewan.

"As one of the top 'third-generation' synchrotrons in existence and a model for newer facilities, Canada joins 15 other countries who are using synchrotron science to investigate matter in a whole new light," said federal Finance Minister Ralph Goodale.

"We are confident the research conducted at the Canadian Light Source will have world-wide implications and Canadians will be the first to benefit from new discoveries in areas of human health, environmental technologies, and materials science."

The U of S owned national facility is one of Canada's largest science projects in a generation. The made-in-Saskatchewan design is one of the most efficient, compact and most advanced in the world.

"In its pursuit of excellence, the University of Saskatchewan has secured a Canadian flagship science facility and increased Saskatchewan's already high standing in the global research community," said Saskatchewan Premier Lorne Calvert. "We aren't just opening a world-class synchrotron. We are launching opportunities in Saskatchewan that will lead to profound advances in science and technology for the benefit of all people."

"The CLS is an impressive example of the type of partnerships that are essential to ensure Canada's capacity to effectively compete internationally in important areas of research," said Dr. Eliot Phillipson, President and CEO of the Canada Foundation for Innovation.

The world's newest synchrotron is the prod-

uct of an unprecedented level of co-operation among federal, provincial and municipal governments, universities across the country and industry.

"A national facility of this calibre is tremendous for our university and our research collaborators at 26 universities across Canada," says U of

"We are confident the research conducted at the Canadian Light Source will have world-wide implications and Canadians will be the first to benefit..."

- Ralph Goodale, Federal Finance Minister

S President Peter MacKinnon. "We have a very large research capacity at U of S and that capacity has just taken a quantum leap forward. The opening of the CLS marks a new era of more intensive engagement for both our faculty and students."

The first call for proposals to do research at the CLS went out in September, with the first experiments expected to take place early in 2005. Six of the seven Phase I beamlines will be complete by the end of 2004, with the seventh coming on stream in the first quarter of 2005. A \$44.5 mil-

lion Phase II expansion will add five more beamlines, with the first scheduled for commissioning in 2007. There is room for more than 30 beamlines at the synchrotron.

"Today, we are celebrating the start of the research phase in the life of the CLS," says CLS Executive Director Bill Thomlinson. "I would like to congratulate our team here at the CLS. Due to their efforts, we are entering the global synchrotron community with a state-of-the-art research facility. I also want to applaud the vision of our partners in government, academia and industry. Your investments and support will pay dividends to Canadians for many years to come."

Like the 40 or so other synchrotrons around the world, the CLS accelerates a stream of electrons. This hair-thin beam travels at nearly the speed of light around a ring-shaped vacuum chamber about as thick as a man's wrist. Powerful electromagnets built around this stainless steel pipe keep the electrons moving around the ring.

The electrons give off a brilliant flash of laser-like light every time they are forced to change direction. This synchrotron light is produced in all frequencies from infrared through visible light to X-rays. This light is guided through beamlines to end stations where scientists perform a wide range of experiments.

The total operating budget for CLS is \$90 million over five years. This includes funding from Science and Engineering Research Canada (also known as NSERC), WD, the National Research Council, the Canadian Institutes of Health Research, and the U of S. To support the development of an anticipated \$5 million from commercial fee-for-service charges, WD and Saskatchewan Industry and Resources are also providing bridge funding.

For more information on Canada's synchrotron, visit: www.lightsource.ca.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Science & Technology Editor: Luke Norton - lambda_science@laurentian.ca

Discovery of dwarf hominids opens new chapter in human and evolutionary history

BY LUKE NORTON
SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY EDITOR

The discovery of a new class of hominid on the remote island of Flores in Indonesia has scientists raising new questions about human history and evolution, and is extending our knowledge of the diversity of human beings.

The new species of tiny human, classified *Homo floresiensis*, was discovered during a dig at the Liang Bua rock shelter by Australian and Indonesian researchers. Early dating has placed the hominins on the island of Flores around 18,000 years ago, which significantly overlaps with the presence of modern humans (*Homo sapiens*) in the same region of Southeast Asia.

It is unclear at this point how, or even if, *Homo floresiensis* and *Homo sapiens* interacted, but many scientists believe that it is likely that two groups came into contact. In an interview with the science journal *Nature's* online feature *News @ nature.com*, the dig's director Mike Morwood outlined his belief that future discoveries in Southeast Asia will reveal that "human dispersal and cultural change were much more complex than previously believed, and that Asia may have played a much more prominent role in these issues."

The diminutive size of the species has led to some of the find's discoverers to nickname them "hobbits," but has also cast new light on the adaptability of the *Homo* genus to ecological pressure. The research team has speculated that the hominins may be the descendents of the *Homo erectus* who are known to have lived on nearby Java roughly 1.6 million years ago.

If true, this would indicate that the *Homo floresiensis* became subject to the evolutionary process known as "island dwarfing," found in other mammals in genetic isolation and pressured with a limited set of resources. Although found in other mammals, this process has been hitherto unknown to have occurred in humans, which may mean that humans may be more flexible adaptively than ever believed.

Another interesting factor that may add credibility to the "island dwarfing" thesis is the discovery of stone artifacts alongside the remains of the eight hominins found at the site. The hominins, who stood one metre high, have skulls 380 cubic centimeters large (roughly the size of a grapefruit), and a brain about one-third the size of the brains of modern humans.

Hominins of this limited brain size were not thought to have been capable of developing such tools as were found, or even of reaching the island of Flores at all. In addition, the research team discovered the remains of an extinct species of dwarf elephant (*Stegodon*), believed to have been hunted by *Homo floresiensis*, which shows that "island dwarfing" may have occurred in other mammals on the island.

On a less scientific note, the discovery has also created excitement among cryptozoologists, who see in the existence of a dwarf species of human possible evidence that the mythological creatures that appear in human myths and folklore may be based on real creatures.

The only other hominins of this size were found in Africa and have been dated to the Pliocene epoch (roughly between 2 million to 7 million years ago).

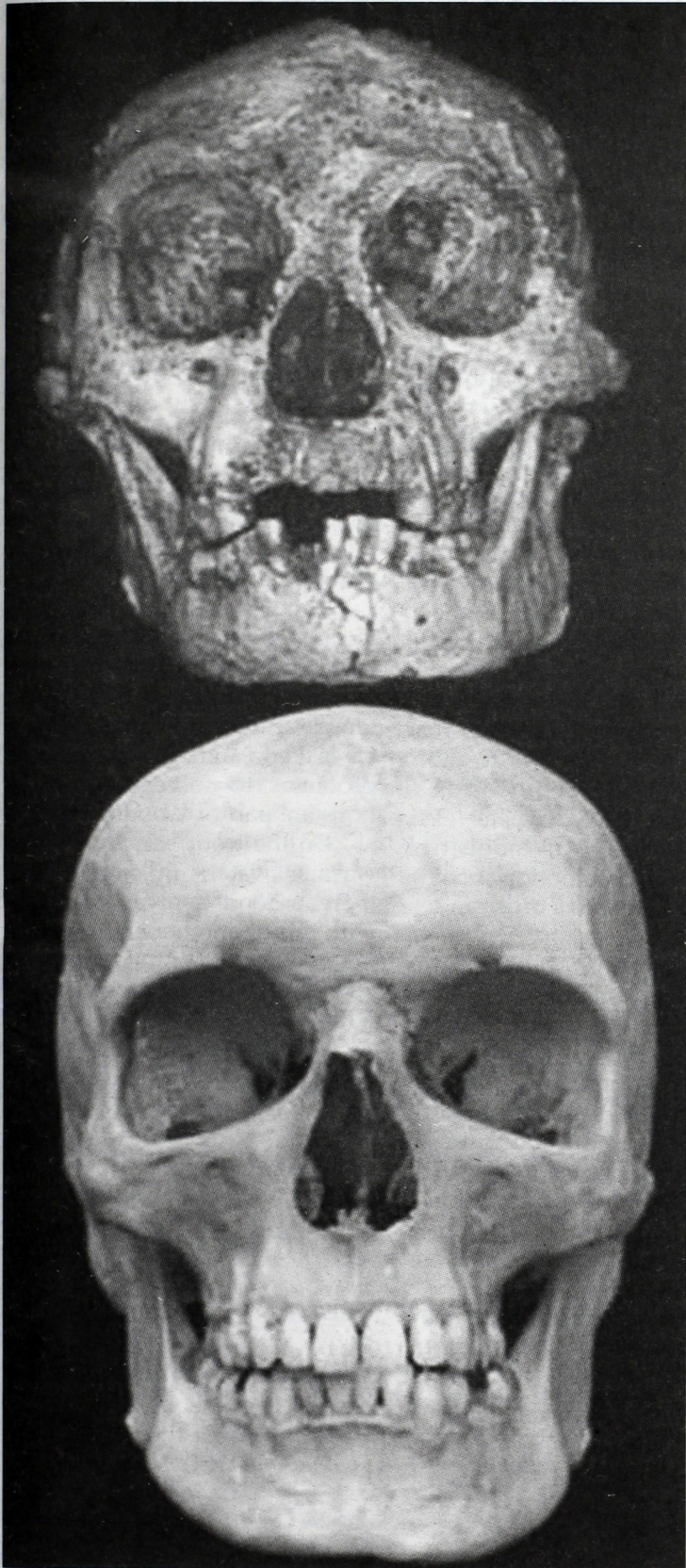


Photo courtesy of Peter Brown

The skulls of a *Homo floresiensis* and a modern human

SCIENCE BRIEFS

Research Funding

Laurentian University to receive \$1.5 million in funding to increase its research capacity.

Laurentian University announced on Oct. 21 that it will receive \$1.5 million in funding from the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC) over the next five years.

This funding comes from NSERC's Research Capacity Development in Small Universities Pilot Program. Laurentian is one of seven universities in Canada selected to participate in this program. There were 34 applicants for the awards.

This federal investment seeks to help small universities increase their research capacity. It is also intended to create new opportunities for professors and students, as well as help spread a culture of research and innovation across the country.

The RCD Pilot Program is one of the new initiatives NSERC has launched to fill some significant gaps in Canada's innovation system. These initiatives are designed to help Canada become a nation of discoverers and innovators.

NSERC is a key federal agency investing in people, discovery and innovation. It supports both basic university research through research grants, and project research through partnerships among post-secondary institutions, government and the private sector, as well as the advanced training of highly qualified people.

Lunar Eclipse

The weather could not have been better last Wednesday, when students, staff and guests gathered at the university to enjoy the Lunar Eclipse together.

The observations took place from 9 pm to midnight in Laurentian Parking Lot #1. Also, a Science demonstration took place in the lobby of the Fraser Auditorium from 7:30 to 8:30 pm and later a Planetarium show from 8:15 to 9:15 in the Doran Planetarium.

The lunar eclipse begun at about 9:15 pm and glided through Earth's shadow for more than three hours. An eclipse of the Moon can only take place at Full Moon.

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WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP

WIL comes to LU

BY DEBBIE SAUVE
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

The Women in Leadership Foundation of British Columbia hosted a Women in Leadership workshop yesterday, which included various female leaders in the community.

In partnership with members from The Presidential Advisory Committee on the Status of Women, Native Services, Students' General Association, Placement Centre, the women appeared on a panel and workshops from 5:30 - 8:30 in the Brenda Wallace Reading Room. The focus of the panel and workshops was on the science and technology fields.

"This is the first initiative we have taken, which is intended to be a career fair geared at celebrating and encouraging women in the science and technology fields," said Lyne Rivet, acting chair of the Presidential Advisory Committee on the Status of Women.

The three main types of presentations that were held included a Women Leadership Panel, an Industry Info Session, and a Leadership Development Workshop.

The Women in Leadership Panel was a powerful series intended to showcase Canada's accomplished women leaders, to connect role models with the next generation of female talent.

Successful women from the private and public sectors shared their life and career experiences; provided insight on leading a prosperous career; and offered tips on creating work and life balance. The panel included top women leaders with backgrounds in science and technology in the ranks of upper management from Inco, City of Greater Sudbury, and the Sudbury Regional Hospital Markets. They were, Dorothy Cayen, GM Finance, Canadian Operations, Inco; Helen Mulc, Manager Business Development, City

of Greater Sudbury; and Vickie Kaminski, President & CEO, Sudbury Regional Hospital.

This provided a forum for discussion, networking, and information sharing, while speakers presented their secrets for success and what it takes to be a great leader. The panel consisted of three to four presenters and each panelist had 12 to 15 minutes to present.

The Industry Info Session was an informal presentation profiling women at various stages of their careers in a selected industry to enlighten those considering a career in the field of focus. The panel women were profiled and attendees gained insight into what it is like to work in the field; areas of opportunity; how to best make the transition; and tips for success. The session also provided an optional soft recruiting opportunity through materials distribution and recruiters answered questions.

Finally, the Leadership Development Workshop was designed to develop candidates as effective leaders through an engaging approach to leadership skills building. Company representatives, like INCO, lead the workshop, covering topics, which included best practices in leadership building, communication skill development, negotiation techniques, networking, entrepreneurship, and financial management.

The Women in Leadership Foundation (WIL) is a national, non-profit organization committed to investing in leadership diversity. Through their programming, they aim to advance women's development as leaders and support their pursuit of an inspired career path.

Starting this fall, WIL will hold 22 various industry info sessions, leadership development workshops, and women in leadership panels, including two Aboriginal forums at 22 post-secondary institutions in Ontario, including yesterdays here at Laurentian.

Freshwater fieldwork takes Biology major to the lakes

How cold can a cold-blooded fish get? Or for that matter, how warm can a fish get? These are a couple of the basic questions that Sarah Woods is addressing for her fourth-year thesis in Biology.

Woods has been slugging away at her Science degree, like many future scientists, for the last four years. She was fortunate enough to be exposed to Laurentian University through Dr. D. Pearson of the Department of Earth Sciences when she was in her high school years.

A resident of rural Wahnapiatae, Woods grew up with an innate love of animals. Life on the farm rarely had a dull moment. She and her family would deal with births of the kid goats in spring, chickens to rear for food or eggs, cows to milk, cats to feed, neighbourhood dogs to fend off and above all else, horses to ride. An inquisitive mind and an exploratory behaviour set Sarah onto a career in science.

During the summer months at Laurentian she was successful in acquiring jobs in the field of science. As early as her second year this opportunity allowed her to acquire skills in the various disciplines she was interested in.

One summer she worked with Dr. G. Parker, searching for parasite loads in mustelids (such as fisher) and oiseaux (such as ruffed grouse). Parasitology is a fascinating area of discipline with ecological and evolutionary

implications due to the close association between the host and the individual parasites associated with that host.

Necropsies provided information on parasite locations, sizes of the individuals and parasite loads. Above all else, she got a "host" of stories to tell at dinner time.

In her second and third summer "breaks," supervisor Dr. J. Gunn of the Freshwater Ecology Unit selected her. This intensive introduction to freshwater fieldwork and data collecting led her into the eventual selection of her fourth-year thesis.

Using sensors carefully implanted in large lake trout, the research team could record temperature in relation to the lake temperature. Many questions can be asked and the associated problems to solve these questions are part of Woods' work.

Do the trout select cooler or warmer waters in summer? Is there a food source associated with this or another environmental requirement for survival? How much do they move around within the lake?

Woods' future looks bright. There are several places that provide an interesting prospect for a Masters Degree in freshwater ecology. She may wish "to go west" of Ontario towards Lethbridge or south into the States, perhaps Wisconsin. After a Masters, she hopes to do her Ph.D. Whatever the choice may be, the foundation of her learning should serve her well.

Student follows love of nature to university



CANDRA SCHANK

Ribit... ribit... ribit. The frogs are croaking. It is an early summer evening and a lamp is moving mysteriously along the edge of a small wetland near campus. It shines on the slippery skinned male that is calling from the water. Rubber boots slip through the murky water slowly, ever so slowly. Green skin is illuminated.

Candra Schank is a young, vibrant 23-year-old who is following one of her life-long ambitions - she loves frogs. As a young girl she often brought unusual creatures home for observation. Her mother was moderate, but frogs would stay outside. Birds, insects and the family dog were tolerable.

Schank came to Sudbury in 2001 from Owen Sound. She had always been interest-

ed in nature and wanted to follow her interests into university.

One of her favorite teachers in high school was Mr. MacMurdo. He would always "bring a few extra things" for Schank to see in the Biology class to feed her interests in nature. He recommended Laurentian to her, because it was a small school that would provide her with a good education in Biology. She enrolled in Biology's wildlife stream and is now in her fourth year.

When asked what her fourth year thesis is, she gave me the following title. "Condition dependence on sexually dimorphic traits of the green frog (*Rana clamitans*). Her timing at Laurentian was excellent considering Dr. A. Schulte-Hostedde had recently joined the ranks of the faculty at Laurentian. He was willing to take on Schank's hypothesis and put it to the test.

Dr. Schulte-Hostedde is very "approachable, and allows you to work independently," said Schank.

He is open to ideas, and ideas Schank has. Thus the search for green frogs was carried out in local wetlands. This summer she was able to catch 33 prime males and measure the physical parameters necessary to apply the statistical analysis. In the spring she will be giving her results to her peers along with several other fourth year students.

When asked what she wants to do after fourth year, she was quick to respond. "I would like to do my Masters degree." She continued that Laurentian was a serious option for this, but all doors aren't closed yet.

Following her Masters she hopes to work in field-oriented work with habitat protection in mind. With the growing alarm in decreasing amphibian populations this is an area of major concern to Schank.

As for the title of the thesis, the bigger the frog, the more energy it should have to put into physical traits with an inferred better breeding success. I wish I were big...

SPACE FOR RANT

To submit an article to Space for Rant, e-mail us at lambda@laurentian.ca

The trendy revolutionary *A critique of the commercial left-wing*

(CUP) - Nothing drives me up the wall more than the ridiculous anti-globalization/anti-corporation attitude that so many people have picked up like a big shiny red bag. This take on politics has become trendy — thanks to hardcore left-wingers acting as rebel superstars on the big screen.

People reel back in horror as they hear that their rugs were made by young children who were sold to sweatshops for cheap labour, or that the latte they are drinking cost more than a coffee bean labourer's daily wage. I watch these people turn green when they hear that their frothy drink is packed with fun-filled hormones that corporations allowed to be injected into the milk-providing cow, just to increase productivity. Their faces twist up in shock as if they didn't know people were modifying their food.

We are appalled by what we have allowed to become acceptable so that we can have cheap shoes and gadgets. What is going on in our world to allow us these luxuries is disgusting. It's all over the media, it's in our faces and it is nauseating. It's no longer hidden in huge filing cabinets where we can't

access it; we know how these multinational corporations work because it is laid out in front of us. North Americans are educated and aware of the dirty ethics of corporate business. So, what do we do about it?

Sweet fuck all. The best most people are doing is slipping on their Che T-shirts (probably made in a sweatshop in Korea) and pinning their Corporation: The Movie buttons on their backpacks as they walk out the front door. They are buying into the image of the revolutionary. It's revolting to think of what kind of marketing genius thought up the idea of selling the anti-corporation attitude to the masses. Who started this trend? Was it Michael Moore's catchy left-wing books and movies, which are produced and distributed by one of the biggest media corporations in the world? Is it Adbusters' Blackspot sneakers that will continue the trend?

I've got to say that I was appalled when I read that Adbusters magazine had sunken to the level of using clothing and image to sell their ideology. Adbusters is a very catchy, informative, anti-corporate magazine that seems to

portray the attitude of loathing the ad-happy capitalist market with a fierce hostility. To rebel against these multinational corporate giants, they seem to say: "Fuck you Phil, we'll make our own goddamn shoes to kick your ass with. We will reinvent the cool."

Now when you are too lazy to read the articles that could lead you into this anti-globalization drunken haze, you can just buy the shoes! If you're too cheap to buy the shoes, you can just head to your local corporate movie theatre and listen to the arguments of the newest left-wing superstar who is feeding you his latest twisted, one-sided argument against corporations.

We have to realize that people like Michael Moore are just as biased as the people they are fighting against. If you agree with everything that he says and you don't want to look into the corporate world any further, you ought to live by the rules that he preaches. Don't buy his books from corporate bookstores; shop locally, find businesses that promote the kind of lifestyle that you support, tear down advertising in your world and kick those corporate asses without buying the shoes to do the job.

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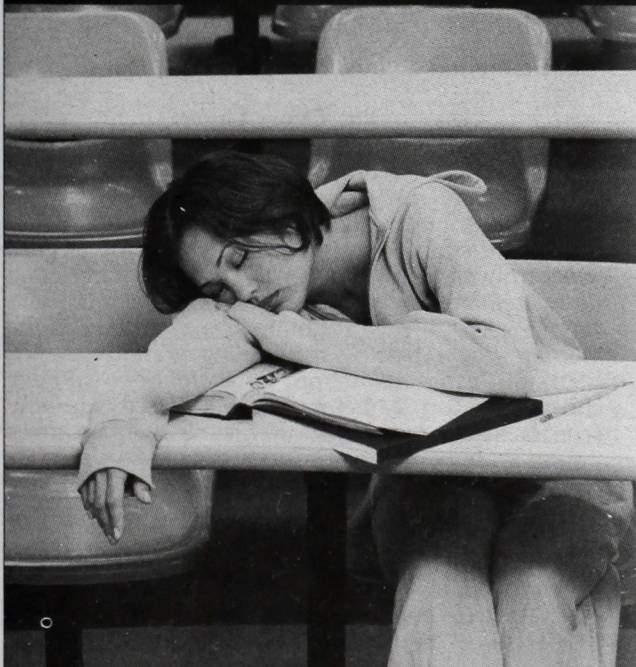
I want to hear what you think - the good, the bad and the ugly. In Space for Rant, Lambda accepts Letters to the Editor and opinion pieces related to student life. The bottom line is that we've got space you've got rant.

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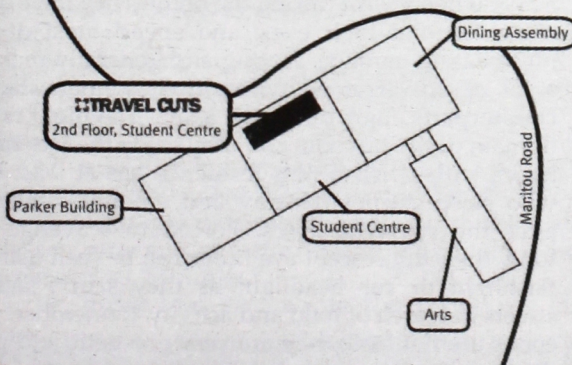
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LAMBDA LAUGHS!

The slacker's guide to academic success ...and a guide to identifying slackers

(CUP) — Nobody said it would be easy. We've stopped hanging around the entrance of the school, the bell has rung, and ladies and gentlemen, we have begun another surreal year of university life. If you're anything like me — what I would refer to as a terminal slacker — I welcome you to the topside down ranks of slackers everywhere.

What is a slacker? My definition is someone who wants to succeed, and has every intention of doing so, but due to the mitigating circumstances of life and a combination of counterproductive personality traits, they rarely meet the goals they set out. Slackers are an academic disaster waiting to happen when they are free for the first time from the fetters of counter-production (parents).

In my second year of university, a combination of personal problems and a strong slacker mentality helped me achieve a cumulative average of seven percent. It's a mark so low that when I tell people they gasp in awe at a truly remarkable accomplishment of futility. I am by no means proud about this. I was forced to redo my year after a stressful academic appeal, and have since seen the majority of my friends graduate and move on with their lives.

It was, nevertheless, an instructive experience. I was able to determine with a degree of certainty that university was where I was wanted to be, and with my personal troubles seemingly behind me, I was able to develop some strategies that have allowed me to go from the doghouse to the honour roll.

1. A straight flush should always beat a well-bluffed pair

University is a game of poker; there is skill, there is some luck, and there is always plenty of BS to go around. In poker, you want to have the best hand possible rather than play the game by the seat of your britches. School is the same; those who have the self-discipline to develop good time management skills, work hard and avoid indulging in distractions will ensure they start off with a better set of cards. If you are serious about this, I suggest you go to your university's library or academic skills centre and check out their resources.

2. A PhD does count for something

The best resource available to a student is their instructor. Whatever you're working on, your instructors can point you in the right direction on a project, reducing your time in organizing and developing it. Take advantage of their knowledge and expertise.

3. Plagiarism is not a good form of flattery

Imitation, however, is. The difference? One is like pretending to be someone else. The other is more like a tribute to the greatness of someone else. No matter how tired, lazy or bored you are, do not try to pass off someone else's work as your own. If you are desperate, pass off their work with vigorous acknowledgement of their contribution. Very little in this world is original, and the chances of you coming up with the latest theory that will change life as we know it are fairly slim. Try to use one to three central articles as a template and then utilize your other sources for brief quotes and statistics (provided you're not relying on the Toronto Sun as your main reference). You may not have created the original argument yourself, but you can write an essay that is completely original in scope and concept — although you will have to put in the work to make that happen.

4. Two out of three ain't so bad

One can be okay too. Seminars can be daunting, especially if you haven't done the readings. There is absolutely no reason why you shouldn't be able to read at least one article, unless you are really lazy. If you are, fair enough, but you get no sympathy from me. You usually have two or three readings in a class. You might as well do one; it's probably no more than 20 pages, especially if you're in first year. During the seminar keep quiet until you can say something about the article you did read. Listen to what others have to say, pick up on some key themes of the discussion and then relate it to the reading(s) you did do.

5. What if it's the same, but isn't

Occasionally you get people in your seminars who like to pontificate about abstract things that make little sense to you. Sometimes they are professors, most of the time they are students who probably haven't done the readings or really don't understand them. I've never taken a class so esoteric that only the professor and one student had a handle on the material. If you have done your readings, don't

get discouraged, stick to your guns and direct a question at Socrates that is related to the course material. Whether or not they trip on their tongue is irrelevant, you have shown you grasp the material, which equals participation marks.

6. Pajama party lecture

It's not that slackers don't like going to class, it's just that it's hard to get there. Still, one must endeavour to make it to lecture. This pertains particularly to people in residence. When class is a five-minute walk from your room, there is no reason not to be there, even if you're not conscious. Hedge your bets — even if you show up to your lecture in a nightgown, drooling, and fall asleep as soon as the lights dim, you're still learning more than if you stayed in bed. Dreams about sociological paradigms or development theories may be unsettling, but at least you've heard the terms. This works especially well in psychology, where you can do dream analysis to figure out what you learned.

7. 54-40 or fight!

The golden rule of being a successful slacker is that you can never get worse than a zero. If you rely on this logic, you're probably not doing too well. Never skip doing an assignment — that's throwing away marks you could very well use. Not sure whether it's Groucho or Harpo that wrote the Communist Manifesto? Who cares! If you're down to the wire, write it down and hand it in anyway. Too many people take a zero on an assignment because they didn't do it or weren't happy with it. Pride is not an option, especially when procrastination has led you to the point of no return. Get a pot of coffee, get naked, do what you need to do to get words on the paper and hand it in. The bottom line is that you might get five out of 45 on an assignment, but hypothetically, that could be the difference between a 49 and a 50, credit or no credit.

Keep in mind that if you do the readings, show up to class and try to stay abreast of the course content, you won't be as big a mess as you think if you need to churn out something on the fly. I wouldn't bank on getting a smiley face stamp when your assignment gets returned, but there is a delightful irony in getting a C on what you know is crap.

So grasshopper, go hop half-assed into the world of academia and take comfort as you find yourself munching on a buffet of mediocrity. All joking aside, there are things beyond your control. University can be a daunting experience. If you find yourself sliding academically and suffering from feelings of depression, anxiety and despair, or are finding that you are increasingly becoming dependent on drugs or alcohol, you shouldn't have to face that alone. Seek guidance from a doctor or counselor. University, while at times challenging, should not be a place where you suffer in silence.

A GUIDE TO IDENTIFYING SLACKERS

The subculture of slackers is full of all sort of different categories of individuals. Here is a list of just a few of the more common varieties of slackers. If you recognize yourself or friend, take heart: being a slacker is not a hopeless condition, just perplexing.

Rocky Balboa

Rocky Balboa was a fictional boxer whose greatest asset was his ability to block haymakers with his face. Slackers who follow in his tradition are those with a bizarre talent that allows them to be successful for very intense, short periods of time. They may be those individuals who write 5,000-word essays the night before they are due or carry a stolen keg across town. Regardless of their ability, they always find the fortitude to succeed where most mortals would fail. They are the type of slacker that can be seen time and time again showing tremendous stamina at eating, drinking or movie marathons, training themselves constantly to do the impossible no matter how trivial it is. That's the deception. What many see as excessive laziness is actually a very old and ancient skill of prolonged concentration. While Rocky had chickens to chase and stairs to climb, his slacker brethren have the first two entire seasons of Family Guy on DVD and a \$1,800 meal plan. When the time comes, they will be ready.

Habitat: Beer Store, Future Shop and their neighbour's bed. At the end of each term, they can be observed at the library doing the year's readings and writing a giant essay that covers the content of their entire course load. It is imperative they are not disturbed during these critical junctures.

Notable successes: The Italian Stallion himself, three-time heavyweight champion of the world, John Belushi, Babe Ruth, Homer Simpson and every

hot dog eating champion ever.

The Lizard King

The most revered amongst all slackers, the lizard king (or queen), is your local grubby philosopher. Every residence section has one, a seemingly unclean, wandering intellectual who is never too busy to spend the better portion of an hour — or a day for that matter — imparting the mysteries of the cosmos to those willing to listen. After being awed by their ability to do an in-depth existentialist analysis of Archie comics, you ponder how one endowed with such infinite wisdom is not in graduate school or a secret government think tank. The reason for this is simple. Their kingdom is a tragic one. If they spent a fraction of the time doing schoolwork or writing down their thoughts as they do sermonizing apathetic first-years, they might be on the dean's list. Alas, the lizard king is resigned to rule in their little corner of the common room or the cafeteria giving us the answers to the universe that most of us will never hear.

Habitat: Common rooms, cafeterias, bathroom stalls, buses and park benches. Never to be found in a seminar.

Notable successes: Jim Morrison, Steven Wright, Socrates and Wicked Witch of the East.

Social Microsoft Butterfly

The Internet has allowed a new generation of slackers to emerge: the Microsoft social butterfly, or MSB for short. These slackers have managed to make the seemingly boring world of their bedrooms into a veritable 24-hour conference call of MSN contacts. When out of their natural environment and away from the computer, one can always tell an MSB by flashing the colour orange at them — they will immediately become excited at the prospect of a new unanswered electronic message. MSBs also enjoy verbalizing their feelings using witty acronyms. Devoid of any outward physical emotion, you can tell you've hit their funny bone when they inform you of an LOL. Still, one must always take care in verbalizing with an MSB, as hand gestures and facial movements can have catastrophic effects.

Habitat: MSBs leave their computers only to eat, but are now being spotted away from their computers more often due to the evolving technology of handheld communication.

Notable successes: The people who claim to have made a million dollars through Internet solicitation.

The Cyber Loner

AKA Max Payne/Tommy Vercetti/Naked Neighbour from The Sims/Laura Croft/Orcslayer69/etc., etc. The cyber loner is your resident gaming freak. You can hear at all times of the day the sound of repetitive MIDI music and gunshots from their dwelling. With bloodshot eyes and no muscular definition to speak of, the cyber loner can be seen quickly running to a restroom as the loading screen prompts the coming of another seven hours of virtual habitation. Cyber loners who have chosen to adorn catheters and VR glasses are only seen on those rare occasions where their chamber pot needs to be emptied.

Habitat: The sun-swept streets of 1980s' Vice City, The Black Mesa Complex and the fantasy world of Faerun.

Notable successes: They've all saved the world numerous times over. Seeing as they use the very latest in firearms and magical weapons, who's going to argue?

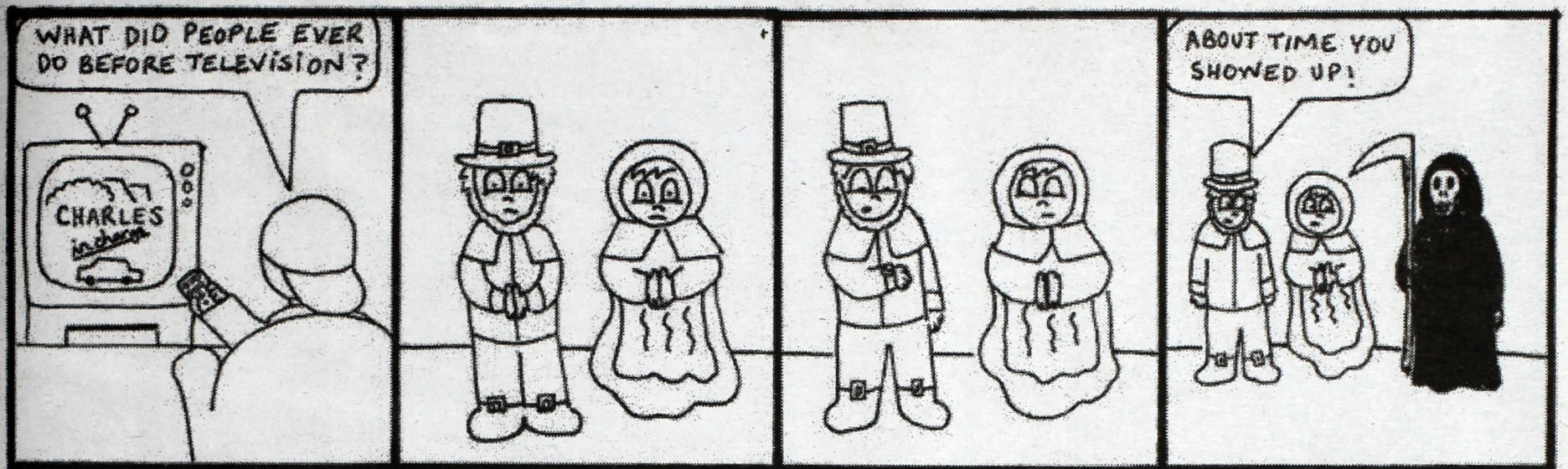
The Raccoon

Raccoons are nocturnal creatures, and are very active when awake during the night. They have dark circles around their eyes, and spend most of the night eating garbage, mating and generally making a lot of unwarranted noise. Their human slacker counterparts enjoy doing the same. The night is the domain of the raccoon, and they enjoy the late-night hours with relish. Every residence has at least two who sleep during the day and emerge sometime after the cafeteria closes. Forced to scavenge for food, their fluorescent eye bulbs can be seen using a flashlight or car headlight as they scurry across streets in search of food and activity. Remember, raccoons are not lazy; they are very energetic and productive. It just happens to be during the most unproductive part of the day.

Habitat: Anything that is open 24 hours. Commonly can be seen egging each other on to dive into the dumpsters behind cafeterias.

Notable successes: Count Dracula, Batman and Paul Revere.

LAMBDA LAUGHS!



38 survival activities for a boring class

If you're serious about combating boredom during class, these tips are for you. Please, don't think twice before engaging in any of the following activities.

1. During the lecture, throw a Frisbee past your professor and yell: FETCH! When he doesn't do anything, scold him: "That's a bad professor! Very bad!"
2. Ask the professor if this class comes with closed captioning.
3. When the professor calls your name in attendance, and your name is Smith, correct him and say: "Ahem, it's pronounced Bergowitz."
4. Come to class drunk and loudly proclaim in the middle of the lecture: "YOU GUYS ARE MY BEST FRIENDS!"
5. Tell the professor you're dyslexic and claim you need the answers to the test first, so you can work backwards to find the questions.
6. Bring a secretary to class. If the professor asks you a question, have the secretary explain that you are in a meeting.
7. Play Tetris in class, and every few minutes scream out "Fucking blocks!"
8. Respond to every question with "Nice pants." For example: Who was the king of France in 800? "Nice pants." What city did USA drop the atomic bomb on? "Nice pants." What is the Dockers slogan? "Nice pants." (Well, it doesn't work with everything)
9. Address your professor as "Tiger". "Is that gonna be on the exam, Tiger?"
10. Laugh uncontrollably while the professor talks about the oppression of slaves.
11. Ride into class on a goat. Act nonchalant.
12. Heckle the professor during attendance.
13. If someone tries to sit in the empty seat next to you scream out: "YOU'RE SITTING ON HARRY!"
14. If the professor asks you to answer a math problem, answer it in letters, explaining that you're allergic to numbers.
15. Interrupt the lecture with, "Do you dance with the devil under the pale moonlight?"
16. Chew down on your blue pen and get ink on your mouth. Casually explain to the professor that you were feasting on Smurfs.
17. Interrupt the class every 5 minutes with: "So where were the bodies hidden?"
18. Wear one of those disguises with the glasses, nose and moustache, and refer to the professor as "a stinka."
19. Insist that you wrote the textbook

and that chapter 5-8 is all lies.

20. Hold up a big posterboard with JOHN 3:16 written on it.

21. Write your papers in IM language. For example: in ww2, french ppl didnt fight they were 2 slop slow* then germany came and wuz like lol french ppl lata! brb

22. Wear an eye patch to class. Change which eye it covers every 30 seconds.

23. Enter class with an entourage.

24. If the professor asks you a question, tell him you forgot to put in your contacts that morning and can't hear him.

25. Bring an alarm clock to class, have it go off, and repeatedly hit snooze.

26. Sit next to the kid that nods "yes" constantly while the teacher is talking, and continuously shake your head "no" during the lecture.

27. Excuse yourself from class and explain you're having "woman problems". This is especially effective if you're a guy.

28. Show up 10 minutes late, and yell out: "Stupid daylight savings time. I meant to be 10 minutes late TOMORROW!"

29. When writing a paper, plagiarize a trashy romance novel. Demand that Socrates did, in fact, have luscious breasts and milky white skin and you deserve an A.

30. E-mail your professor with an erotic letter complete with pictures, then send a follow-up with the words: "Oops, wrong email."

31. Bring in cabaret dancers and answer your questions in song.

32. If the professor asks you to answer a problem on the board, try doing it in pen as opposed to chalk, then start crying about how your pen doesn't work.

33. While the professor is talking, walk around the room. When he pauses, frantically try to find a seat. If they are all filled, yell out, "Damn it, I suck at musical chairs."

34. If the professor sneezes, say nothing. Ten minutes later, blurt out: God Bless You!

35. Show up to class in a pirate uniform. In your best pirate accent, yell out: "Arrrr, I demand mutiny!"

36. Draw yellow lines on the floor near your desk and put up a sign that says: PARKING ONLY FOR [YOUR NAME HERE].

37. Come to class in a Klan hood. Then remark to the professor, "Hey man, great to see you at the meeting last night."

38. Get to class before the professor, and station a bouncer at the door. Have the bouncer demand the professor pay a cover.

That's all for now. Hope these tips make class more enjoyable. If not, just skip.

What's Your Excuse?

Every now and then, we university students need some time off from class, but not at the expense of taking an unexcused absence. So what do you do when no one in your family has died recently and no sickness has taken hold of your fragile, sleep-deprived body? You make shit up. But not just any shit-some thoughtful, calculated, and ultimately ludicrous shit that you will cowardly e-mail along to your professor.

Shit that if you attempted to pull on him in person would have you spitting up after two lines trying to withhold laughter. Nevertheless, behind your computer you are safe to experiment with all kinds of fancy excuses. Here are a few e-mails you may consider sending to one of your professors when you decide it's time to reach into the grab bag of desperation. (Feel free to type them up on notebook paper as indicated below. Most professors have a drop box.)

1. Mental Health Day

Professor Smith,

You may or may not be aware, but I was recently diagnosed paranoid schizophrenic. Let's just say today's not one of our "better days." For the safety of you, the students, myself, my other self, and my possible other selves whom I have yet to confront, I feel it would be best if we (all) just stayed home today. Please take into consideration the fact that most mentally disturbed people are of above average intelligence.

Sincerely,

Stan, Kyle, Kenny, and Cartman

2. Feigning Incoherence

pRiofvwsdrt SMotg,

i xan;t seewm tpo feel; myt fumngerts., PLeader rex-cvusaee mme from cl;assd. lill xexplanan laeseter; eoyouur thes bestet!!!133!

3. I Only Have Eyes For You

Professor Smith,

I don't know quite how to say this. It's really rather awkward. See, it turns out the girl I've been stalking has secretly been stalking me as well. Around 3:00 am we simultaneously kidnapped each other and somehow chained one another up in a mutual friend's basement. Needless to say, I will be absent from class today. Blame it on the chains. I would be sending this to you in the form of magazine clippings, but my stalker-stalkee is reluctant to share her periodicals. If you want to find out who she is, ask around until you find a colleague who got a similar email. You can make a game of it.

Sincerely,

Parker Brothers

4. To Be Used On A Monday

Professor Smith,

Due to certain activities that took place this past weekend, I will not be able to attend your recitation on particle physics. I don't want to go into too much detail, but I assure you, my circumstances are trying. You see, I was very drunk, she was very fat, her father was very rich, and I should really get to a hospital if I want this hamster to survive.

Sincerely,

Cold and Confused

5. Quantum Leap of Faith

Professor Smith,

I will not be able to turn in my paper today, but my reasons are varied and of great importance. Early this morning, Scott Bakula quantumly leaped into my body for the sake of altering a moment in history. According to Ziggy's readings, I should be back to normal in 8 hours, 37 minutes, and 52 seconds.

Sincerely,

Michael J. Fox

Well kids, I hope some of these emails will help you get a chuckle out of your troubles every now and then. Until my next bout of boredom, have a nice day.

Chuckle of the Week

"If toast always lands butter-side down, and cats always land on their feet, what happens if you strap toast on the back of a cat and drop it?"

- Steven Wright

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